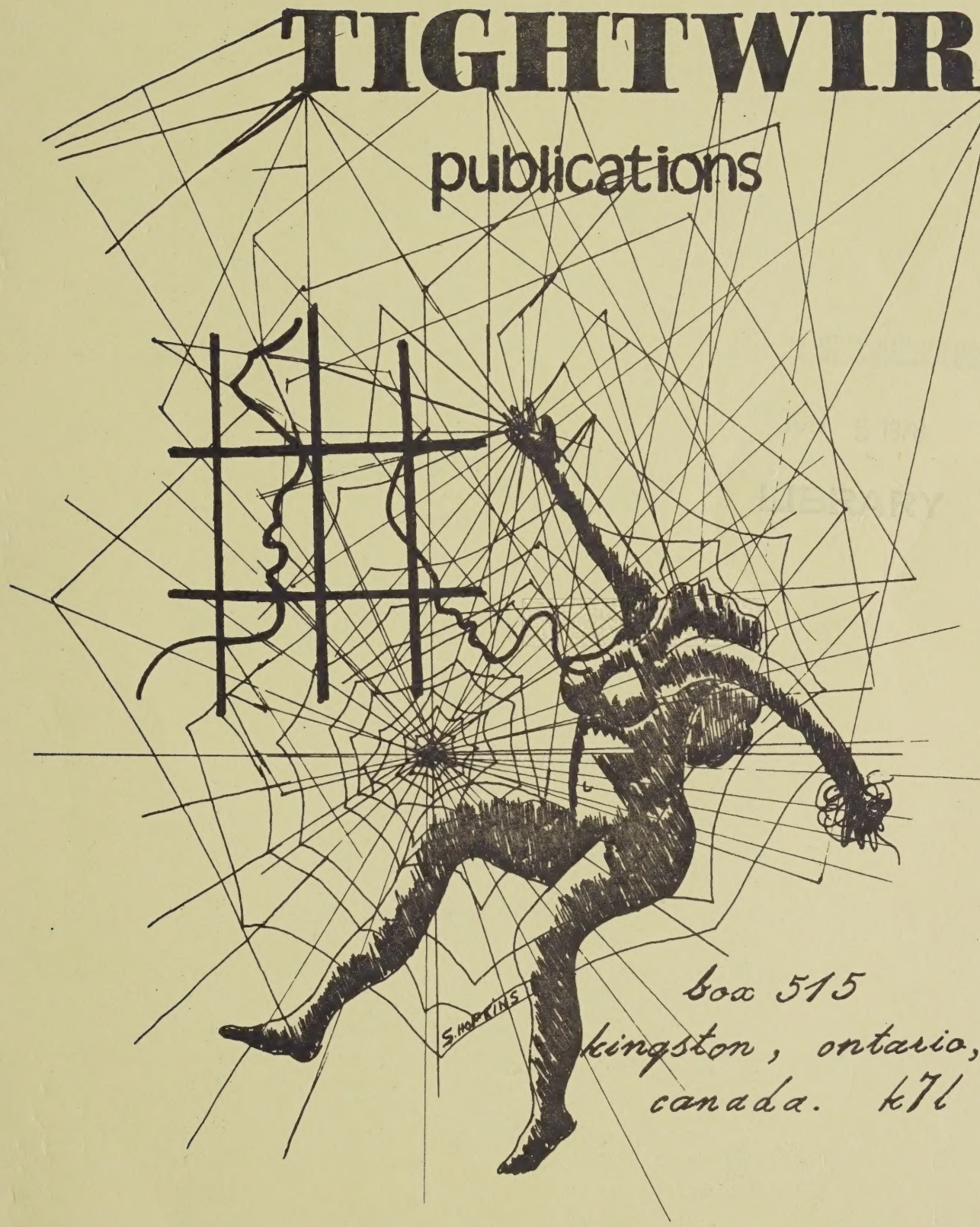


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TIGHTWIRE

publications



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March/April, 1978

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EDITORIAL

The death of Isabel Ogima in January (see story pg. 12) has prompted feelings of guilt, sorrow, fear, anger, helplessness and confusion. The unanswered questions become: How could someone die of undiagnosed hepatitis in this age of "modern medicine"? Will it strike again? Why wasn't more done for her?

Some of these questions were answered at the inquest held March 29 and 31. However, the larger question of medical care in general at the Prison for Women was relatively unexplored as the Coroner, Dr. Clifford Meyer, refused to allow into evidence any information as to Isabel's previous condition, especially during the four out of six months she spent in segregation. His rationale was that the inquest was an investigation of a prisoner's death and not of the CPS medical program for inmates.

The same reasoning was used by Coroner Meyer to deny representation at the inquest of the prison Inmate Committee. In light of the questions raised by many concerned inmates, it is difficult to understand that decision.

The real cause of his ruling (and other coroners in pre-

vious prisoner death inquests) is not only that he refused to acknowledge our "substantial and direct interest." In theory he may even agree with our request to be represented. However, if granted, a precedent would be set and in the authorities' eyes this would be a dangerous one, opening the door to all types of "abuse" by Inmate Committee representation at future prisoner inquests.

Such thought processes are nothing more than a refusal to face dissenting and probing views in a public forum. Even worse, perhaps they envision wild and unruly prisoners disrupting the smooth flow of their formal proceedings. Who knows how far the fears expressed in such decisions may run? Regardless of the protective attitudes at work among the authorities, it seems only fair that Inmate Committees be represented at inquests into the death of a fellow prisoner. After all, the Directors are automatically granted standing based on their "substantial and direct interest" as a result of their position as head of the institution in question. The same principle is at issue as far as Inmate Committees are concerned and their right to be represented should be acknowledged.





Hi!

TIGHTWIRE

Letters To The EDITOR:

Greetings Sisters,

How are things going for you there?

Last night I reread the July-August issue of Tightwire. Really think you people are doing some fine work - there's so much feeling that comes across: it's great! I hope a lot of people read it, and feel it, and start to realize that it's going to take everybody's energy to get this prison trip straightened around into something that can work in a positive way for all of us.

I try to show people how important this is, and a lot of times they just kind of look at me like they have hearts made out of stone, and tell me they try not to think about it. Next thing you know, the same people are complaining about how they can't trust anybody, and they're scared to walk down certain streets, and they just can't figure out why people get so violent and frustrated.....

(I get pretty frustrated trying to reach these people's brains!) Other people say, "ya, it's bad, but that's too bad," and continue on their ways.

I've never been in prison myself (I don't have much desire





to experience it either, by the way) but I can imagine the frustration you people within the walls must have to deal with, when I feel as frustrated as I do about it from the outside. You must be incredibly strong to maintain. My heart goes out to you ...

Keep on keeping on

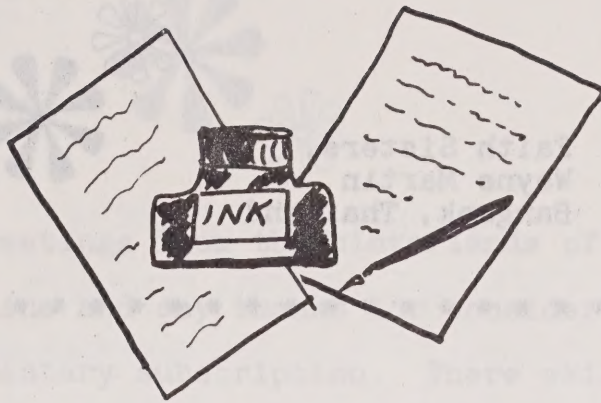
you do good things thru your efforts.....

love and inner strength to you all,

Phoebe







Feb. 16/78



Dear Faye,

I would like to express on behalf of the foreign contingent of Laidyao Prison, Bangkok our sincere thanks for the past issues of Tightwire and our hopes that they shall continue.

We have found Tightwire very creative and extremely informative. Since many of the prisoners here are patiently awaiting a prisoner exchange your articles on the Mexican swap and the conditions at McNeil Island are very relevant.

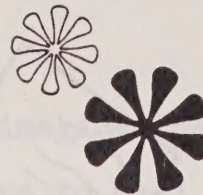
Although we find some of your serious articles, such as complaints on prison conditions, a bit amusing we are provided with a spot on the floor to sleep ... c'est ca!!.. we particularly enjoy hearing how our better half lives.

I would especially like to compliment Nancy Ward Armour and Faye Fontaine on their great humor and satire and express the hopes of the guys here that you'll all be out of a job in



the near future.

Faith Sisters,
Wayne Martin
Bangkok, Thailand



Mar. 2/78



Dear Sharon,

I'm writing to request that I be put on your Tightwire mailing list. I was previously receiving it when I was in Canada but since coming back to the U.S. haven't received any.

At the moment I'm in solitary and have been for the last 5½ months and I do enjoy keeping up to date on the news in Canada.

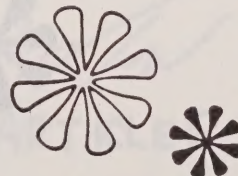
I passed a copy of Tightwire (July/August/77) that I had brought with me around and the guys here liked it very much so while cash is scarce I can guarantee a wide circulation of that one copy which I hope you'll send.

We have a magazine here (Stray-Shots!) but unfortunately it doesn't reflect the prisoners view as this is a military prison and the military abhors criticism - self or otherwise.

So I'll be looking forward to reading Tightwire and the particularly insightful articles and poetry.

Fraternally,
John O'Sullivan.
Ft. Leavenworth, Ka.

P.S. Give my warmest regards to Nancy if she's still with you.



Mar. 4/78

Ladies,

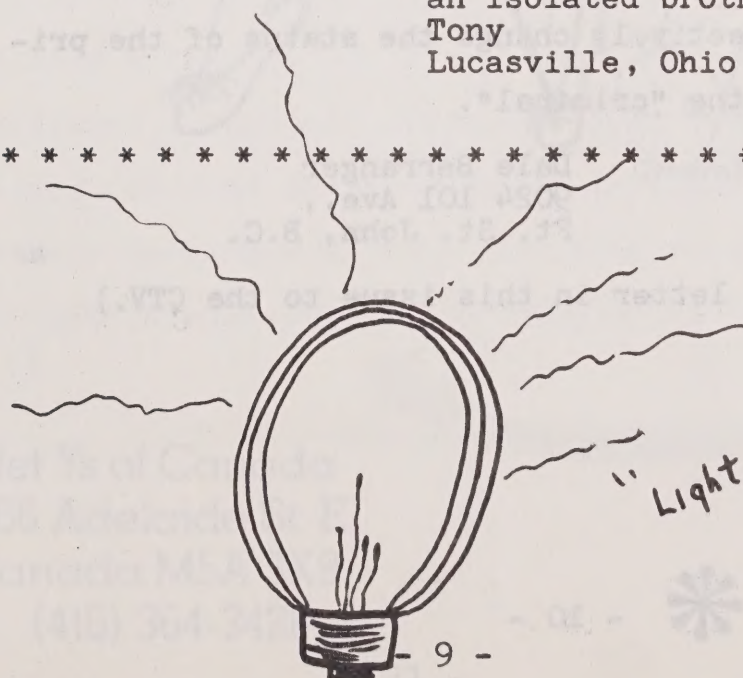
Greetings from the hinterlands of Ohio. Wanted to drop you a line and say thanks for considering me for a continued complimentary subscription. There exists a chain of nearly 30 men in the various college programs here, all of whom read the copy I receive. All are quite impressed!

In fact, you ladies have motivated us to initiate interest in a writer's workshop, and then whatever. The only problem is, we are having problems securing administrative approval.

Eventually I, as well as several of my friends, intend to submit articles for publishment in Tightwire. We are not professionals though, and have often wondered what guidelines and requirements your staff had set forth. If time permits, drop me a line stating your guidelines; if not mention it in your fine mag.

Until whenever, be optimistic and smile for a friend!

an isolated brother,
Tony
Lucasville, Ohio



"Light up your minds"

March/78

To the staff and readers;

In a letter published in the Nov./Dec. 1977 issue of Tightwire I expressed hope of starting a National Prisoners Publication (NPP) in the near future. I have had somewhat of a setback and am now living in northern British Columbia. However, I am still going to be starting the N.P.P. and still wish correspondence from all parts of the country.

I realize the magnitude of a National Prisoners Publication but I also know that it is desperately needed --- especially if it is a politically informative and entertaining publication. There are over 15,000 prisoners in Canada. When you consider their families, relatives, and friends you come up with quite a few people. There are also quite a few people in government positions, as well as street people, who are "sympathetic" to prisoners' rights. All profits from the N.P.P. would be used to change "laws" and fight "legal" battles.

It's time we united! A "legal" publication could provide the means to effectively change the status of the prisoner and maybe even the "criminal".

Dale Berranger
9024 101 Ave.,
Ft. St. John, B.C.

(Ed. Note: see Dale's letter in this issue to the CTV.)



Ballet Ys

March 7th, 1978

Mr. Jack Bennett,
Social Development,
Canadian Penitentiary Service,
Prison for Women,
Kingston, Ontario

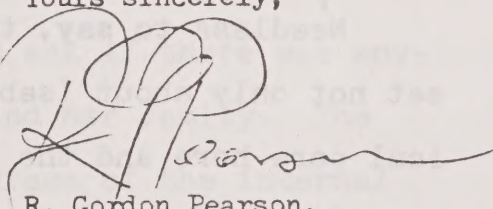
Dear Mr. Bennett:

Our dancers and staff had a wonderful time performing at the Prison for Women, and have asked me to express our thanks to all of you for your warm and appreciative response to our work.

We are very encouraged by this experience and look forward to revisiting your institution and others in the future.

Thanks for writing when people enjoy us, we like to hear about it.

Yours sincerely,


R. Gordon Pearson,
General Manager.

RGP/ ms

Ballet Ys of Canada
366 Adelaide St. E.
Toronto, Canada M5A 3X9
(416) 364-3428

REPORT ON THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF ISABEL OGIMA

The new Inmate Committee wasn't in office very long when an inmate died of hepatitis. Isabel Ogima, serving 6½ years for abduction, resisting an officer of the law and causing a disturbance, died in the early morning of January 24. On January 11, she had been admitted to inside hospital with fever and upset stomach. Diagnosis at that time was flu and antibiotics were prescribed. Two days later, a rash developed and the opinion was that it was either a reaction to the medication or measles. The antibiotics were discontinued, but the rash remained and was examined by the dermatologist.

The hospital records on January 20 indicated that Isabel appeared jaundiced and on the evening of January 21 she was transferred to the Hotel Dieu Hospital, where she died three days later of acute hepatic failure.

Needless to say, the prison population was extremely upset not only about Isabel but about the implications of medical care here and the question of the hepatitis possibly spreading. To meet these concerns, the Inmate Committee arranged with the hospital and Director to have Dr. Scott, Acting Regional Medical Director, come in and speak with the women and answer their questions. As a result, some fears



were eased but many questions remained, especially concerning Isabel and the apparent lack of treatment on the part of the inside hospital staff.

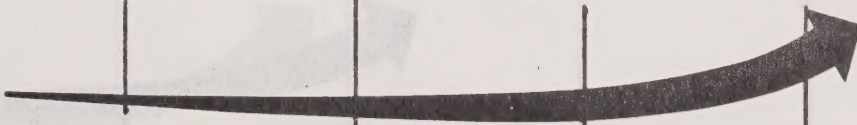
Since all inmate deaths are required to be followed by an inquest, the Inmate Committee wrote Queens University's Correctional Law and Legal Assistance project for advice. The Committee's letter was answered by Allan Manson, who had handled prisoner death inquests in the past. The hope in this case was that the Inmate Committee would be granted formal representation at the inquest and while the hope was a slim one preparations were nevertheless made.

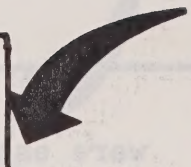


As part of the preparations, the Committee talked with several women who a) were felt to have information on Isabel and her last weeks here and b) had complaints of their own about medical treatment from the inside hospital.

Additionally, the Committee wrote to Mrs. Ogima in Thunder Bay to express condolences and ask if there was anything that could be done to help her and her family. The Committee was also advised of the progress of the internal inquiry which was begun by administration the day after Isabel died.

The inquest was set for Wednesday, March 29. Mrs. Ogima





who was being represented by Mr. Manson, travelled from Thunder Bay and attended the inquest with Isabel's sister. Mr. Manson requested that the Inmate Committee be granted standing at the inquest, but this motion was denied by Coroner Meyer. This decision left the prisoners virtually unrepresented at the proceedings of the inquest. Those granted standing included Mrs. Ogima, the P4W Director and the medical staff of the Hotel Dieu. The rest of the day was taken up by medical testimony both from the prison and outside medical sources. The evidence securely established that Isabel died of Type A viral hepatitis. The strain of virus apparently was one that attacks quickly and offers a 47% chance of survival among people from ages 11 to 20. Isabel was 19 years old. The medical experts agreed that early symptoms of the disease resemble those of flu and that had Isabel been sent to the Hotel Dieu on January 11, she would probably have been sent home with the same diagnosis: flu. Secondly, even if she had been diagnosed as having hepatitis as early as January 11, the progression of this particular type is very rapid, rendering it untreatable except for life-support systems when coma begins.

A murkier area of evidence centered around the testimony of the prison hospital staff, especially on the question of Isabel's medical file. Nursing notes from January 20 and 21



indicate Isabel's fever had risen and that she appeared jaundiced. However, the final medical report after her death, as well as the doctor's notes of January 20 indicated there had been no change in her condition. On the stand the medical doctor appeared to have difficulty in recalling many of the details of Isabel's last 2 weeks in the hospital, whereas the nursing staff presented a clearer picture of the progress of her condition.

The second day of the inquest heard testimony from some inmates who were called by Mr. Manson as part of his representation of the family. An attempt to establish a connection between the amount of time Isabel had spent in segregation (4 out of her 6 months in the prison) and her medical condition was disallowed by the coroner. He based his decision on the fact that the inquiry was into a prisoner's death and not into the facilities and medical treatment of the prison. Mr. Manson felt there was indeed a connection in that a person's ability to resist this type of hepatitis rests in part on one's physical condition at the time of contracting the disease. One of the inmates testified that Isabel was branded by Staff as dangerous and was therefore treated differently (for the worse) than the rest of the population, both when she was in the general population and in segregation. The same inmate cited the instance of a fire in segregation around Christmas

time. At that time, the inmate stated, all prisoners were released from their cells except Isabel. (This was later denied by the Director in his summation. He stated that only two women were released and those as fire wardens to help the matrons put out the fire).

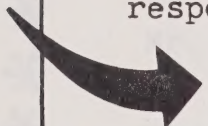
All the allowed evidence having been presented, the jury then retired to consider a verdict. When they returned, their conclusion was that she had died of natural causes, that is, of acute hepatic failure secondary to Type A viral hepatitis. Two recommendations were also made as a result of the evidence that had been heard. The first was that in the light of the scarcity and contradictory nature of records in her file that an improved system of record-keeping be established by the prison medical staff. The other, arising from the absence of any tests for Isabel in her two weeks in the prison hospital, recommended that all women receive the appropriate tests within 72 hours of admission to the prison hospital.

COMMENTS:

This writer attended the inquest for part of the second and last day of testimony. Aside from the proceedings themselves, the most outstanding observation was the obvious boredom of the coroner. He sat on the bench alternating his attention between a point beyond the window and his fingernails.

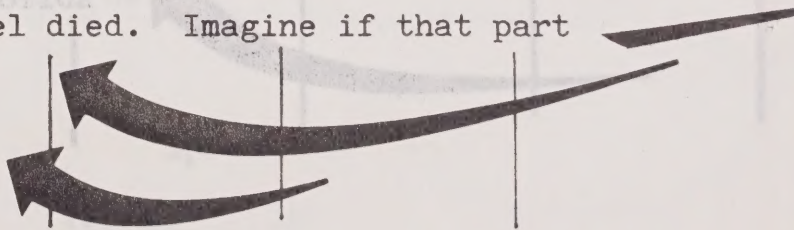


The nails and cuticles must have been the more fascinating as they finally won a hands down (or up?) victory for his concentration. Or perhaps he was hungry, after all dinner hour was near. At any rate, he chewed, nibbled and gobbled for over an hour, occasionally glancing up to check the proceedings or respond to a question.



Another observation was the sarcasm evident on the part of the coroner and his counsel as Mr. Manson pursued his questioning. There was an audible sigh of exasperation and a visible shaking of the head in disbelief by the coroner's counsel's when the prison hospital cleaner described Isabel's color as reddish/purple with a tinge of yellow. The coroner's voice reeked of a world-weary "I've seen this all before - will this never be over?" attitude as he replied to an objection by Mr. Manson.

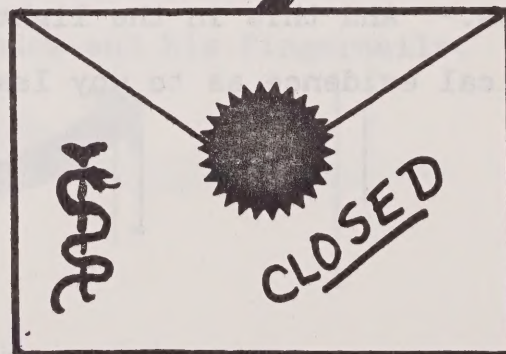
During the time I watched the proceedings I was struck by the abundance of misinformation and contradictions. There seemed to be little interest on either side (it was an extremely adversarial situation) to really listen and understand the opposition. Filters of prejudice were working overtime to cloud the issues. In conversations afterwards with both parties, blame was attributed to the other side "they started it, not us." And this in the light of both sides agreeing on the medical evidence as to why Isabel died. Imagine if that part



was at issue as well!

Another thought - an inquest is an inquiry based on the legal model of a presiding figure (the coroner), counsel for both sides (coroner's and deceased) calling of witnesses, submission of exhibits and testimony and a final verdict by a jury. It seems to me that the position of the presiding figure is the most important one as his/her decisions are reflected in the way the proceedings are carried out. In a trial situation, a judge decides for or against certain points based on his knowledge and experience in legal matters. Should a coroner be granted these legal discretionary powers? I don't think so. If an inquest were truly an inquiry into all circumstances surrounding a person's death, it would be conducted openly with all interested parties represented and pertinent evidence submitted. As it stands now, the coroner, who is not a judge, is given judicial powers and can allow or suppress evidence, grant or refuse standing and generally preside over a due process proceeding without the legal knowledge or experience which should be required in such a situation. If the legal model is going to be followed, put a judge in charge, with support from the medical profession. Otherwise, remove judicial powers from the coroner and require that all evidence from interested parties be heard.

EDITOR



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A VISIT BY THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL

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On Monday, March 13, Solicitor-general Jean-Jacques Blais visited Prison for Women as part of a tour of the area's C.P.S. facilities. Ann Wilson, Chairwoman of the Inmate Committee, called the Committee together in preparation for meeting with Mr. Blais that afternoon.

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Another subject of discussion was the negotiations between Stonehenge (a drug rehabilitation centre near Guelph) and the National Parole Service. These talks are aimed at having Stonehenge become a resource for female drug addicts from P4W who would be released to the Centre on day parole for treatment of drug addiction. Mr. Blais was not aware of these plans but agreed that in the light of the few halfway house resources for women, the program seemed promising.

While we all know such complaints and recommendations have been presented by P4W inmates in the past, only to fall into oblivion soon afterwards, it appears that some decisions are at

least in the planning stages. Whether the outcome will be satisfactory or not remains to be seen. But at this point, the feeling seems to be that as a result of years of study and recommendation, action will finally be taken. Our hope is that the actions will be substantive and not just another tactic of appeasement and delay in the fight for women in the federal penitentiary system.

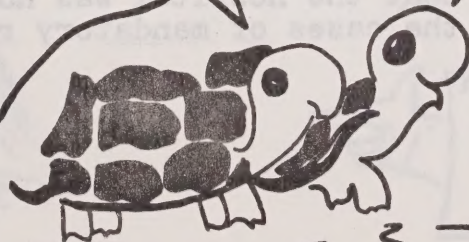
NAME THAT TUNE
?

1. PROMISE HER ANYTHING BUT
GIVE HER.....
2. SEEM'S TO ME I'VE HEARD
THAT SONG BEFORE.
3. PROMISES ... PROMISES

TIGHTWIRE Staff

Well Jean...
We good talk!
We should have
this through by
1985' or 1990

Yep! But by then
I'll have a new
position or retired
I hope? You know
how things change
in Ottawa these days.



Inmate Committee Meets With P4W's New Doctor

As you all know, Dr. Amodeo, the P4W doctor for more years than we care to remember is no longer with us. From now on, doctors will be hired on a short-term contract basis thus guarding against the entrenched status gained by Dr. Amodeo.

The first doctor to be hired under the new contract arrangement is Dr. Craig Pettis. In March, he met with members of the Inmate Committee to introduce himself and listen to suggestions. Dr. Pettis maintains a private practice and will be at P4W Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. He or one of clinic partners will be on 24 hour emergency call.

Dr. Pettis outlined to the Inmate Committee some of the changes he expects to introduce. These include:

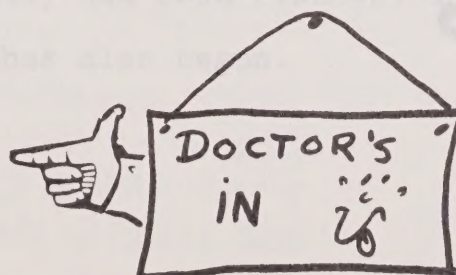
- 1) a more comprehensive initial physical examination upon admission to P4W. This will include greater involvement by the doctor in history-taking as well as a more detailed physical exam of the inmate.
- 2) only the doctor and one nurse will be present when an inmate is having a PAP test. Plans are in the works to have the examining room be a part of Dr. Pettis' office resulting in more privacy for interviews and examinations.
- 3) annual physical examinations for inmates.
- 4) physical examinations for inmates upon release. Dr. Pettis hopes to do these long enough before release to be able to treat any problems which arise. The problem in the past has been that the hospital was not notified of release except in the cases of mandatory releases.

Ms. Rattan is setting up a system whereby the classification officer notifies the hospital of an inmate's upcoming release. In the meantime, if you are being released and want a physical examination, ask to see Dr. Pettis.

- 5) if an inmate wants Dr. Pettis to have records from her outside doctor, see him about having that information passed on to him.

In closing, Dr. Pettis stressed that he makes no distinction in the treatment of patients, whether they are inmates or his own clinic patients outside. He wants to give us the same treatment he gives to his private patients. However, he said he finds a difference in the amount of information inmates are willing to share with him. Private patients seem willing to give as much information as possible but inmates in some cases are unwilling to do so. This reluctance seems understandable in light of past medical experiences for inmates where much mistrust has been built up between doctor and inmate. However, it is hoped that in the future inmates will give the new doctor a chance to help them. In our view he seemed reasonable and concerned for our welfare. Unless he proves to be otherwise, we should cooperate as much as possible so we can benefit the most from his help.

TIGHTWIRE Staff



STATUS MARCH 1978

The following are recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee concerning the Prison for Women.

RECOMMENDATION:

55. An immediate beginning must be made on phasing out the Prison for Women. Until the phase out is complete, facilities and space must be provided immediately for an activity centre, and the life skills program must be re-stored.

As a replacement for the present Prison for Women small cottage-type institutions or village clusters must be established in at least three regions of Canada, with adequate programs to prepare women for release. Where security is required, it should be provided only on the perimeter, or for the very small group that requires it.

If there are not enough women for government-operated Community Corrections or Release Centres to be established, alternative residential arrangements or resources in the community must be found and used. Private homes could be recognized by the National Parole Service as Community Resource Centres for women on day parole.



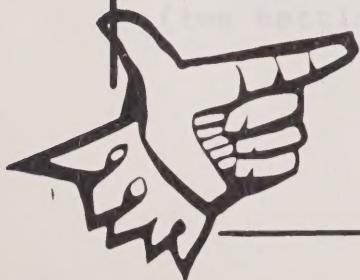
SOLICITOR GENERAL'S RESPONSE, AUG. 1977

55. The question of the female offender is currently being reviewed on a federal/provincial basis, as a follow-up to discussions which took place on the subject at the recent Minister's Conference. The recommendations of the Clark Report on the Female Offender, made public in March of this year form an important part of that review.

The review could result in the kind of institutions recommended by the sub-committee, or it might be established that the present exchange of service agreements with the provinces provide a more appropriate vehicle for the provision of programs and facilities with which the sub-committee was concerned. These agreements have already resulted in the transfer of a significant number of federal female inmates to provincial institutions.

The review process referred to above will also explore further innovative alternative residential arrangements as part of its mandate, such as the use of private homes for day parolees, as suggested by the sub-committee.

In response to the specific recommendations referring to programs at the Prison for Women, the life skills program which assists inmates in the development of better social interaction skills generally has been resumed, and planning for an activities centre has also begun.



PROGRESS REPORT TO DATE:

55. The life skills program has been restored and CPS is now training coaches in order to give more of these courses. The architects are now planning for construction of an activities building. Meanwhile the National Planning Committee will be meeting in Ottawa during March to prepare recommendations to be taken to the continuing Committee of Deputy Ministers responsible for corrections.

FEDERAL
ANIMAL SHELTER



STOP COMPLAINING,
TONY -- IT'S FREE
FOOD AND A ROOF OVER
OUR HEADS, ISN'T IT???

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR THE PRISON FOR WOMEN?

by Susan Hopkins

Spring is here, but whether it is winter or summer, rain or sun, it really doesn't matter. The fun and games are always here.

Inside the prison, we don't have the chance to walk along the creek beds of water and squish the mud through our toes as we did on rainy summer days as children. Here we only have to hop out of bed and step into the water and mud as it comes seeping through the tiles on the floors of our rooms where we sleep and live. So we have an out-door climate indoors. The only problem is that we aren't issued rubber boots. In mid-winter some women were awoken to the tune of , "Rain Drops Falling on My Head", and then walked out of their rooms and faced "The Great Flood of '77". The tiles floated off the floors and were finally replaced in the spring of '78, even though they were warped and dis-colored from the flood.

If a women happened to miss the flood in the Wing she could not help miss the loss of heat or hot water when the pipes broke over a weekend. At that time everyone was involved in boiling kettles for a few inches of bath water (two kettles to fifty girls) and putting on sweaters, coats,



blankets and moving around quickly to keep the blood circulating.

Even the staff were leaving their post to grab their winter jackets or blanket, but at least they could go home after their eight hour shift and get warm again. In the meantime, someone came to their rescue with an electric heater to keep their tootsies warm. We who live here twenty-four hours a day can't go home to get warm or even sit in a closed office with an electric heater at our feet.

You have to admit there are not too many places where you have the advantage of the outdoors and indoors; we don't have to go far to get both, but there are also the disadvantages.

There are women who are sick, smothered in colds and flu and the women who suffer with arthritis, to name a few problems. Great conditions for the health of these individuals to live under. The majority of the year even in summer when it rains the floors are wet or damp and musty.

What comes to mind for many are the recommendations to the Solicitor General of the Parliamentary sub-committee for phasing out the Prison for Women and Mr. Blais' response to the recommendations about the progress on the proposals. How can they be phasing out when the architects are now planning

for construction of an activities building which will run the tax-payer \$2,000,000???? They've also put new lights in throughout the institution, painted most of the building (on top of the other coats of paint, at least nine coats since I've been here and who knows how many before); painting does have to be done every year, because if you hit the walls hard enough, it chips off in chunks. Some floors have been newly tiled but only the offices for staff not for the areas where the women live.

We do need the lights to see better as in another month or two, along comes another fun game, ducking the spiders that hang by the hundreds throughout the building. They out-number the inmates. Never mind the lonely days try the sleepless nights as you lie there and look up to see one coming at you; you jump up, scream, do a war dance to kill it, lie down only to have another one come trucking across the ceiling ten minutes later to keep you company. (I could think of better company!)

The spiders are not the only thing that out-number the inmates. In the Prison for Women, there are approximately ninety-five inmates from all over Canada, as there is only one Federal Penitentiary for the female offenders. To keep the Prison for Women open and running at present the total number of staff working here full-time is one-hundred and fifteen -

included are Administration, Custody, Classification, Hospital, instructors for the programmes offered (which are limited), Kitchen Stewards and other staff, secretaries, clerks, et. al. This is not including the winter works program and students on assignments. The full-time staff alone out-number the inmates by 12%. The winter works program consist of twenty-three men and women they find jobs for at a certain time of the year, every year. This is the entertainment side of the day; supplies to the kitchen are brought on a cart by three men; one to push, one to watch and one to carry the extra load that won't fit on the cart. This might be a couple of tins of honey or juice, (this is all done with work gloves on, must not get our hands dirty). Also don't ask them to lift the hundred pound bags of sugar, potatoes, carrots, or boxes of meats weighing one hundred to two hundred pounds. That's the women's job; the men they might hurt themselves. When I look around here, I always wonder why they call us the weaker sex; somewhere, someone made a mistake.

As of December 9, 1977 the inmate count was one hundred and twenty-seven women. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>Location of Residence</u>	<u>Dec. 9/77</u>
Newfoundland	2
Prince Edward Island	0

Nova Scotia	4
New Brunswick	4
Quebec	12
Ontario	55
Manitoba	3
Saskatchewan	3
Alberta	14
British Columbia	17
Yukon	0
Northwest Territories	0
Outside Canada	9
No Permanent Residence	4
Total	127

Most of the women except Ontario are thousands of miles from their homes. Any women from out of the country are totally isolated from their families, parents, children, husbands, et.al. If and when all of these women ever get a visit which is seldom, it cost their families a lot of money. The majority never see their families 'till they are finished their sentence.

There are passes, but they are also seldom granted out of the province of Ontario, unless it's for illness or a death in their families. The majority even have trouble getting their paroles home due to the lack of halfway houses for the female

offenders, but more to the fact that they have no means of making contacts and plans for their paroles and release.

For the women out of the province it usually runs anywhere from four years and up before they see their families, which is a long time to be separated from them. Their children at times don't even remember them and the adjustments for all concerned are very hard.

The Prison for Women is classified as a maximum security prison, therefore all women who come here regardless of their crime have to live as maximum security prisoners...even though only about 10% of the women are considered dangerous enough to society or to themselves to be classified as maximum. The women have no opportunity to work their way down to medium, minimum, or annex as the men do.

In September 1973 after a protest by the Prison for Women inmates, an annex was opened across the street as an experiment for minimum security women. Eighteen months later it was closed. It was doomed from the day it opened, as in the end they sent only inmates with six months or less. They had nothing to work for, they really didn't care as they would soon be free. They should have sent inmates who had longer sentences and something to work for.



The inmates put a lot of work into planning the peaceful sit-down. But it seems the Administration and Ottawa planned even better. Their plan seemed to include undermining the experiment from the start.

In 1974 there was a Federal-Provincial agreement that let women transfer but a majority returned because the Provincial jails had no programs or facilities to deal with any kind of prisoners except minimum ones, and even then programs and facilities were limited.

As a result of the Parliamentary sub-committee report, Ottawa is now working out a new provincial-federal agreement to deal with transfers.

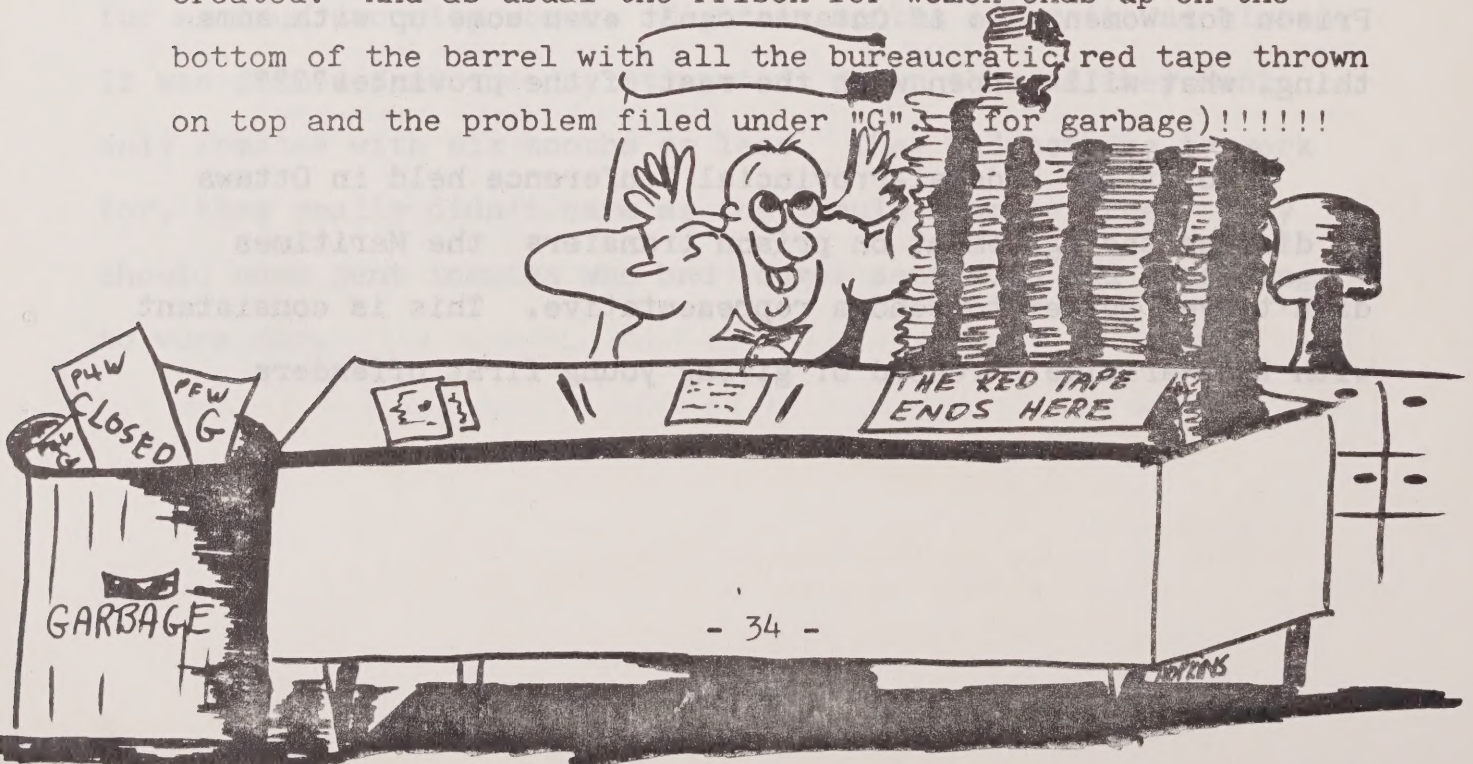
The first word was that Ontario would be first to sign the agreement and women would be going to the Vanier Centre. At this time the latest word is Vanier will be turned into a co-ed jail and men will be filling the empty spots instead of Prison for Women. So if Ontario can't even come up with something, what will happen with the rest of the provinces????

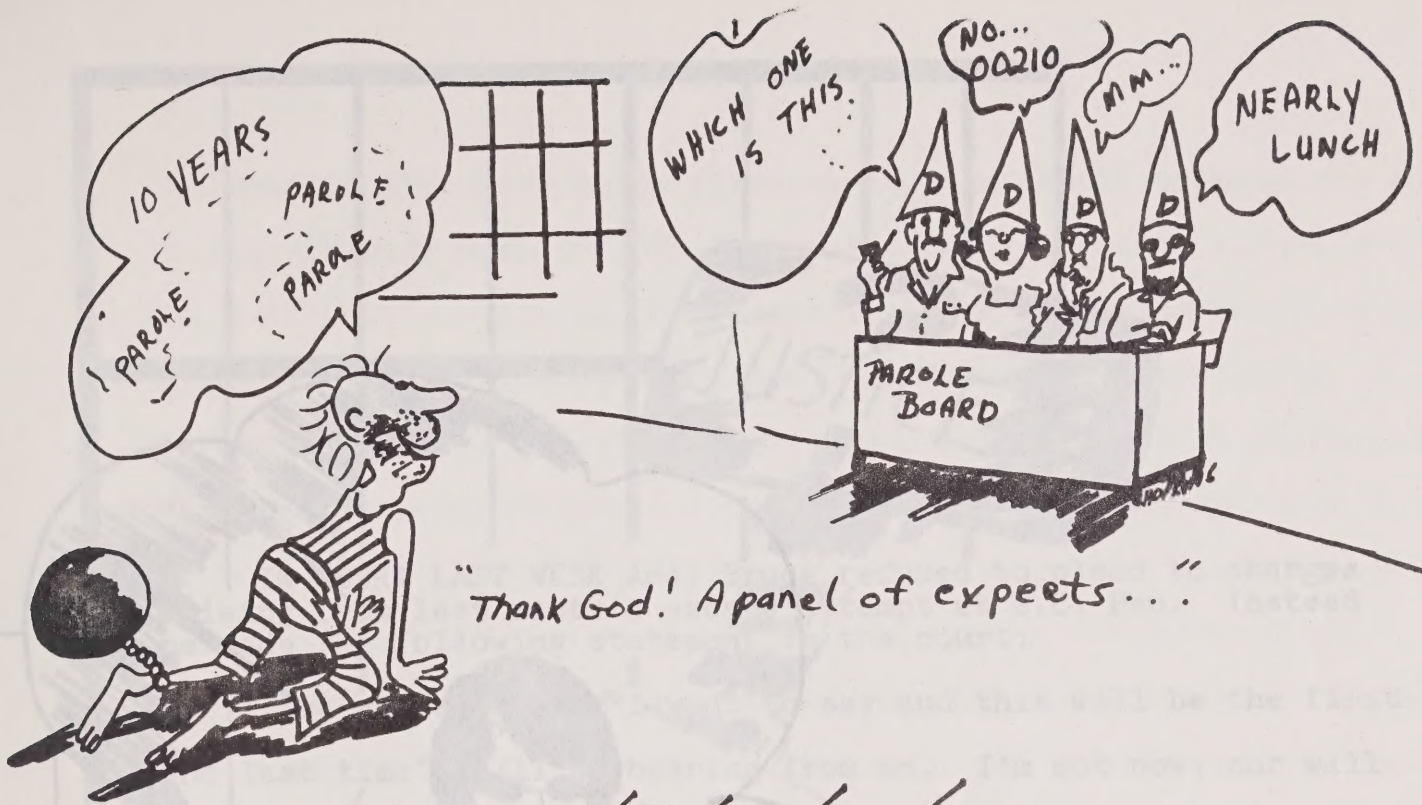
Also at the Federal-Provincial Conference held in Ottawa to discuss the agreement on prison transfers the Maritimes didn't even bother to send a representative. This is consistent with the Maritime's record of giving young first offenders

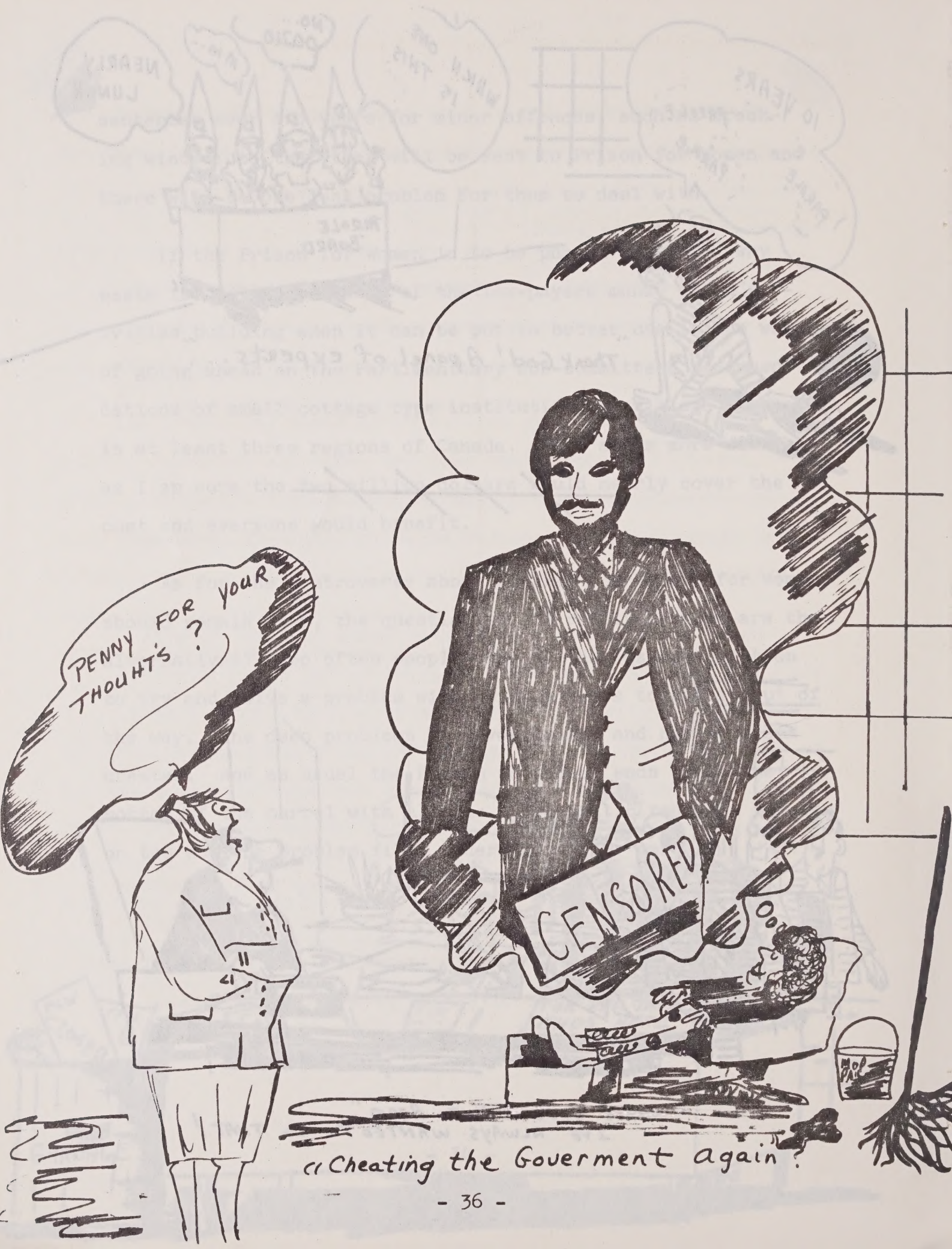
sentences over two years for minor offences, such as breaking windows, so that they will be sent to Prison for Women and there will be one less problem for them to deal with.

If the Prison for Women is to be phased out, then why waste two million dollars of the tax-payers money on an Activities building when it can be put to better use in the way of going ahead on the Parliamentary sub-committees recommendations of small cottage type institutions or village clusters in at least three regions of Canada. This seems more feasible as I am sure the two million dollars would nearly cover the cost and everyone would benefit.

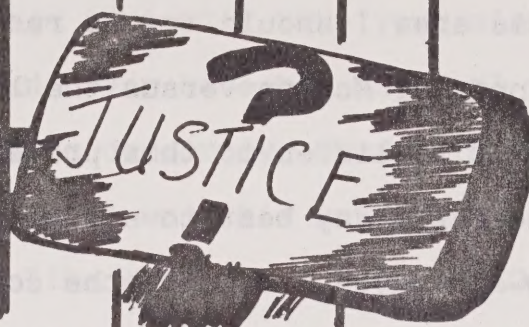
As for the controversy about whether the Prison for Women should remain open, the question should really be what are the alternatives? Too often people jump to the easiest solution to try and solve a problem with quick answers to get it out of the way. The deep problems are over looked and new problems created. And as usual the Prison for Women ends up on the bottom of the barrel with all the bureaucratic red tape thrown on top and the problem filed under "G" (for garbage)!!!!!!







"Cheating the Government again?"



IN COURT LAST WEEK Andy Bruce refused to plead to charges arising from last month's escape attempt at B.C. Pen. Instead he made the following statement to the court:

I've got something I want to say and this will be the first and last time you'll be hearing from me. I'm not now, nor will I ever be entering a plea to these charges. From this point on I refuse-categorically refuse-to recognize this or any other courtroom as being anything other than sham and hypocrisy. I'm sick of it. I'm bored with it. I've played this stupid game too many times not to know the ridiculous farce that's about to unfold within these "hallowed halls of justice."

There'll be no outbursts of rage or indignation from me any more-that's how this whole thing moves me. But I'm not going to sit here in this little box-seat and watch this play-same play-again like some fool out of a Kafka novel.

I'm not going to sit here and listen to my lawyer trying to make sense out of the mindless non-sense of the seven years I've spent in segregation.

I don't want to listen to you making non-sense out of that sense because maybe it doesn't fall within the narrow confines

of the criminal code, or have you telling me that if I do have problems in this area I should try to resolve them thru litigation-in the manner of McCann versus the Queen.

I don't want to listen to this prosecutor doing his two or four hundred dollar a day best to act indignant and appalled for God and country-and maybe a seat on the county court bench, like T.K. Fisher.

And, most of all, I don't want to wait for the final act, which, inevitably, will be the attorney-general-once things have cooled out-coming to the sudden realization that there's nothing the courts can do to me and therefore a stay of proceedings should be entered on my behalf.

I'm not going to play. You may be able to hurt my friends, in terms of time-which, undoubtedly, you will do, because vengeance and not justice has always been the name of this game but ultimately you'll be coming back on yourself, because then you'll have put them in the same position I'm in-and there is nothing you can do to me any more. And I don't just say that because of the time I'm doing. I'm saying that because it's true. Even if you could hang me, you'd win nothing. Your own twisted machinery wouldn't make me an example, it would make me a martyr. So you can push me in any way you want and I'll take it because my will is implacable and you'll only be reinforcing it.

I'll leave all of you to carry on your discussions of

capital punishment, longer sentences and tighter security- because those are the things that will take your minds off of the fact that you don't and never have had any real control over your lives in this bogus democracy; those are the things that'll keep your minds off the way this government continually rubs your faces in things like skyshops; Lockheed/Orion aircraft; Candu nuclear reactors; the government-sanctioned uranium cartel; the R.C.M.P. kick-ins, barn burnings and bug-gings; Fox and his forgery-and numerous other "isolated" incidents. And if it doesn't keep your minds off of such things, at least it'll afford you the opportunity-"safe" opportunity- to vent some of your frustrations on people like me.

All of you people have been so compromised by this system, it's pathetic. Everytime you're slapped down by Pierre, you bounce right back to your feet singing "O Kanada"-and you expect me to incorporate and reflect this spineless attitude as part of becoming rehabilitated?-NO! You go ahead on it; I'm not playing.

And to that end, Mr. prosecutor, I want you to contact your master in Victoria and tell him that Mr. Andrew Graydon Bruce wants a stay of proceedings on all of these charges- right now!

And maybe just a word to the media on the media: When you use phrases like "guru", "cult leader" or "fascinating sex appeal", you put yourself in the same category as the

"National Enquirer." I'd prefer it if you just stick to the well-worn adjectives of "viscous", "violent" and "dangerous". At least there's some truth in those. I may not be those things, but I do know how to become them. I've had some pretty good teachers, and I don't forget. You've all seen the "mindless" destruction of the V&C area (Visits and Correspondence) Well that's what my cell looks like after a frisk-a mindless frisk. I don't forget.

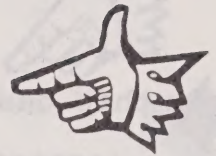
And lastly, I don't have "groupies". None of the people I associate with can be categorized as being groupies.

That's it, your pigship. The show is yours.

SIGNED

Andy Bruce





More News From the West

A Open Letter Sent to CTV News from
Dale Berranger, Fort St. John, B.C.

Sir;

A remark was made on the CTV evening news on Sunday, Jan. 29, 1978 that "Andy Bruce wanted to commit suicide and was trying to con someone into pulling the trigger."

I cannot sit idly by and watch while they lay the groundwork and P.R. for Andy's eventual murder. I would like to say that the authorities, in particular the Prison Administration and guards, have been trying to murder Mr. Bruce for quite a few years now. He has had plenty of opportunities to "commit suicide" at the hands of his guards if he so wished.

Andy Bruce is not trying to commit suicide -- he is fighting for Justice and his Life. It is interesting to note that a man's fight for survival, justice, and freedom can be misconstrued by society and his guards as a means to commit suicide. They are only doing P.R. for his eventual murder.

Much is always said by the Media that Andrew Greydon Bruce was convicted of the contract killing of a night club dancer while her young daughter watched. I would like to point to the evidence that was sufficient for a murder conviction in



this case.

The young daughter could not identify the killer as she only saw him briefly (she did not witness the murder) and could only testify that the killer had "long black hair". Donald MacDonald, chief prosecution witness, stated that he sat in a car outside the home of the night club dancer while Andy went inside and murdered. MacDonald also led the Police to the gun that was supposedly used by Bruce.

Who was Donald MacDonald? He was arrested for Possession of Heroin for the Purpose of Trafficking sometime shortly after the murder. A deal was made between MacDonald and the Police --- he would give them Andy Bruce in exchange for dismissal of all charges pending against him. MacDonald was then lodged in the Hospital Area of Oakalla Prison Farm and supplied with free drugs.

How did MacDonald know the location of the murder weapon unless he had been with the murderer that evening?

Murray Boyd escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary by sawing through the bars in the church located in the North Wing of the Penitentiary. The Police shot down Boyd in his truck on the streets of Vancouver several months after he had escaped from the B.C. Pen. It is believed by the Police that Boyd





was a contract killer in the drug war that was occurring in Vancouver at that time. They blame him with other contract murders that happened around the same time as the Dancer's murder. Boyd was a Heroin Trafficker and friend (I use the term loosely) of MacDonald's. Murray Boyd was also known to wear a long black wig as a disguise while on his escape.

When MacDonald was arrested on the Heroin charge he knew that he would have no negotiating power if he gave them Boyd (Boyd had already been gunned down and was at that time already a suspect in all the murders) so he fabricated a story, putting Andy in Murray's place.

The Police were satisfied that Boyd had committed all the other contract murders in the drug war. All the murders, including the Dancer's murder, were related. Why then was Andrew Bruce convicted on the testimony of a young girl who only identified the killer as having "long black hair", and the testimony of an ex-convict/heroin pusher who could not face another prison stretch?

I have known Andy for 12 years and I know that he is not trying to commit suicide. He has been fighting for his life and freedom most of his life and would certainly not intentionally die at the hands of his oppressors. He is an Honorable and Strong man who is feared by the authorities and hacks that have conspired to imprison and murder him.



INMATE MAKES STATEMENT

The Regina Leader Post June 28/77

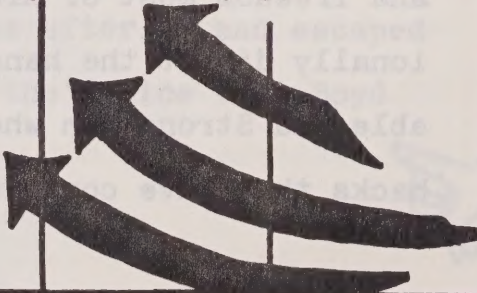
Following is the transcript of a tape-recorded statement from Terry Southwind, one of four inmates involved in the hostage-taking incident at the Regina Correctional Centre Monday night.

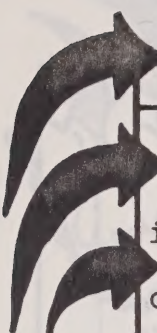
"This is Terry Southwind Speaking. I am going back to the pen soon. It would be okay if I was just going back to the pen, but I know for certain I am going to be thrown back into solitary confinement again."

"On March 3, 1975, I was released from the penitentiary. My mandatory parole was suspended and I was sent back to the penitentiary on March 16, 1975. I was put back into solitary confinement."

"My mandatory parole was given back to me on May 2. It was suspended on May 15 and I was sent back to the penitentiary. I was put back into solitary confinement again."

"Since Jan. 8, 1975, I was in solitary confinement. I never walked around without handcuffs. Every time they put me out of my cell, I was escorted."



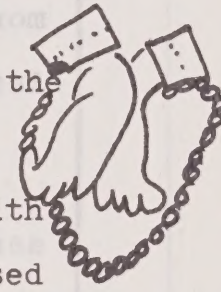


"Since 1975, I was under Section 231A (of the federal penitentiary regulation.) That section means prison authorities could grab you any time they wish and lock you up for months. Most times they didn't even have a solid reason."

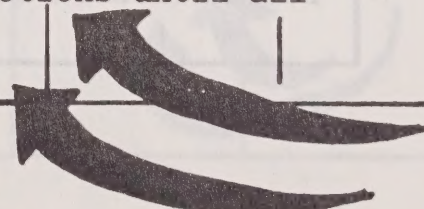
SECTION EXPLAINED

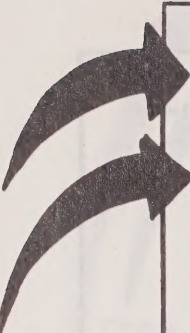
Ed. Note (Section 231A deals with certain circumstances under which an inmate can be held in isolation from other inmates of a penal institution in order to maintain order in the institution or for the well-being of other inmates.)

"Since 1975, people have been trying to get me out of the hole, but the prison authorities would not even discuss my case. In all that time in the hole, I was never charged with anything. I showed no disrespect for no one. I never raised my voice in anger or showed any signs of violence. Yet, they wouldn't even consider releasing me into the (prison) population. And I know this time again I will be locked up."



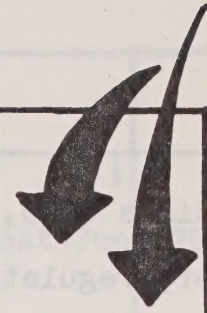
"Over two years I was in that little cell getting only 20 or 30 minutes exercise and fresh air. You don't know how it feels to strip off and show yourself every day. Even after all this time I'm not used to it. You don't know how it feels when you feel pain all day long; when you feel depression slowly destroying and eating away at your emotions until all





that is left is bitterness and hate."

COLD-BLOODED MURDER

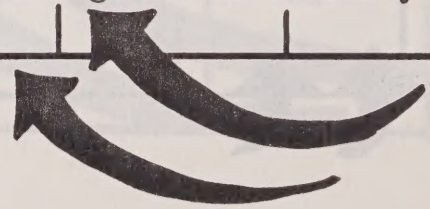


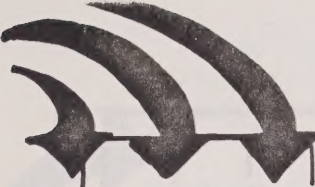
"And you feel it eating away at your guts. When you have no hope at all to walk in the sun again: to talk to your friends again. You know what it is? It's cold-blooded emotional murder. And that's not going into the mind games that are going played on us down there. When they build up your hopes promising to let you out and then telling you again you're not getting out. Building you up and knocking you back down. Making you feel more depressed and frustrated and making life seem more hopeless."

"And there are the hassles from the guards when they harass you. When they try to push you until you explode so they could justify the beatings they give you: so they will be seen in the right when they throw you in the cell naked and, at times, chained up. You know, even animals in zoos receive better treatment. Their keepers do not hassle them for no need. They have more fresh air and walking space. Yeah, they're treated better."

"I'm only one of many under Section 231A. I am only one of many that is being killed emotionally under Section 231A."

"When I was released from the penitentiary onto the street, I was released straight from the hole-- straight from solitary



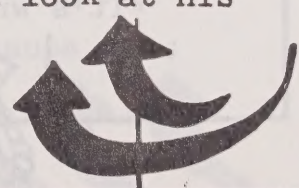
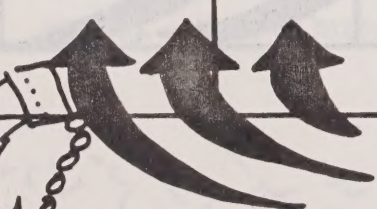


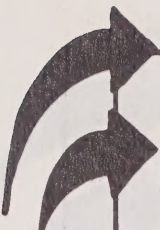
confinement. When I walked out that gate, I felt nothing at all. Only a numb feeling in my heart."

"I believe if I was let out into the population (of the prison), I would have felt more relaxed because I would have been able to communicate with my friends and with other people. I would have been able to get my head together. Instead, I walked out with my mind refusing to believe I was free. I walked out expecting to be snatched up and slammed back into the hole. I walked out not knowing how to talk to people; with a smile that was only a muscle reaction. I went out with my body on the street and my mind back in there--back in the hole."

"I was afraid -- afraid to love my old lady -- to get emotionally involved with her. Goddamn, I was afraid to make plans for our future because I expected every minute of the day to wake up and find out it was all a dream. That is what solitary confinement had done to me. It destroyed me and I know I am going back into there again."

"I am only one of many under Section 231A. You know, it may be your son next, your father or your loved one that is coming straight out from the hole. I understand how he'll feel. Try to talk to him and watch him smile and look at his eyes. You'll see it's not a smile."





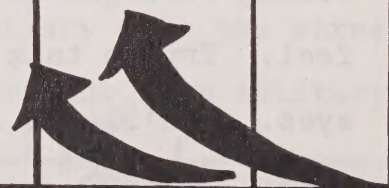
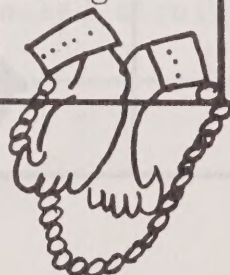
"I hear so much talk about Canada being a country that is concerned about the welfare of humanity (chuckle). I just have to say it isn't so. Is it? I haven't seen it yet. We are people too. We have red blood. We've seen it many times on our cell floors. Our faces turn blue when we hang ourselves."

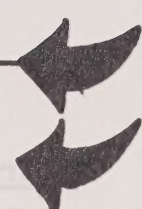
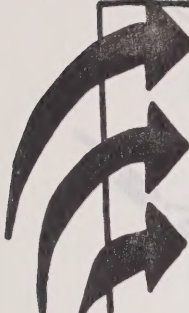
"We have minds and intelligence to see the injustice that's being done to us. It's wrong. It's goddamn wrong."

"I know, after what I'm saying now, the prison authorities are going to come down heavy on me. But it doesn't really matter because I've had my say and that say goes to you people -- people who are struggling also but who still have emotions."

"You know, they locked me up -- one month, two months, three months, four months, five months. It went on and on until they were afraid to let me out -- until they started saying I was a dangerous psychopath. All the time I never showed any signs of violence or anything. Man, I don't know. All I know is what I feel in my heart -- that it is wrong and I will keep standing up -- standing up for what I believe in."

"It's wrong."





"I would like to ask one question. Who made me what I am? Who? Who made me feel all this hate and bitterness in me? Who?"

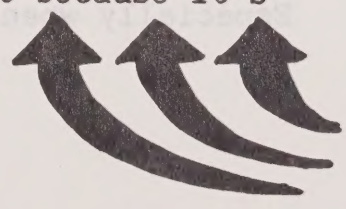
FORESEES CRITICISM

"I see more and more years in solitary confinement, but it don't really matter to me because now I've said what I've always really wanted to say, and I hope you people believe me."

"I know many of you will criticize me for what I have said, but I know there are a handful who will really try to understand what I have to say and who will maybe stand up and look into this Section 231A. I'm not only talking of myself. I am only one of many under Section 231A who are suffering in there. I don't really see any hope. It is Section 231A that is destroying us."

"Most of the times they had no solid reason for locking us up. Maybe the only reason they had was because they didn't like our face. It's wrong the way we're being treated. It's cruel and unusual punishment."

"I stabbed that guard in 1975 and I stabbed him because there was guard brutality going on in the pen. Also, I wrote a suicide note stating that was the reason why I stabbed that guard. I couldn't stand to see my brothers getting beaten that way. I couldn't stand it because it's wrong. We're humans, too."



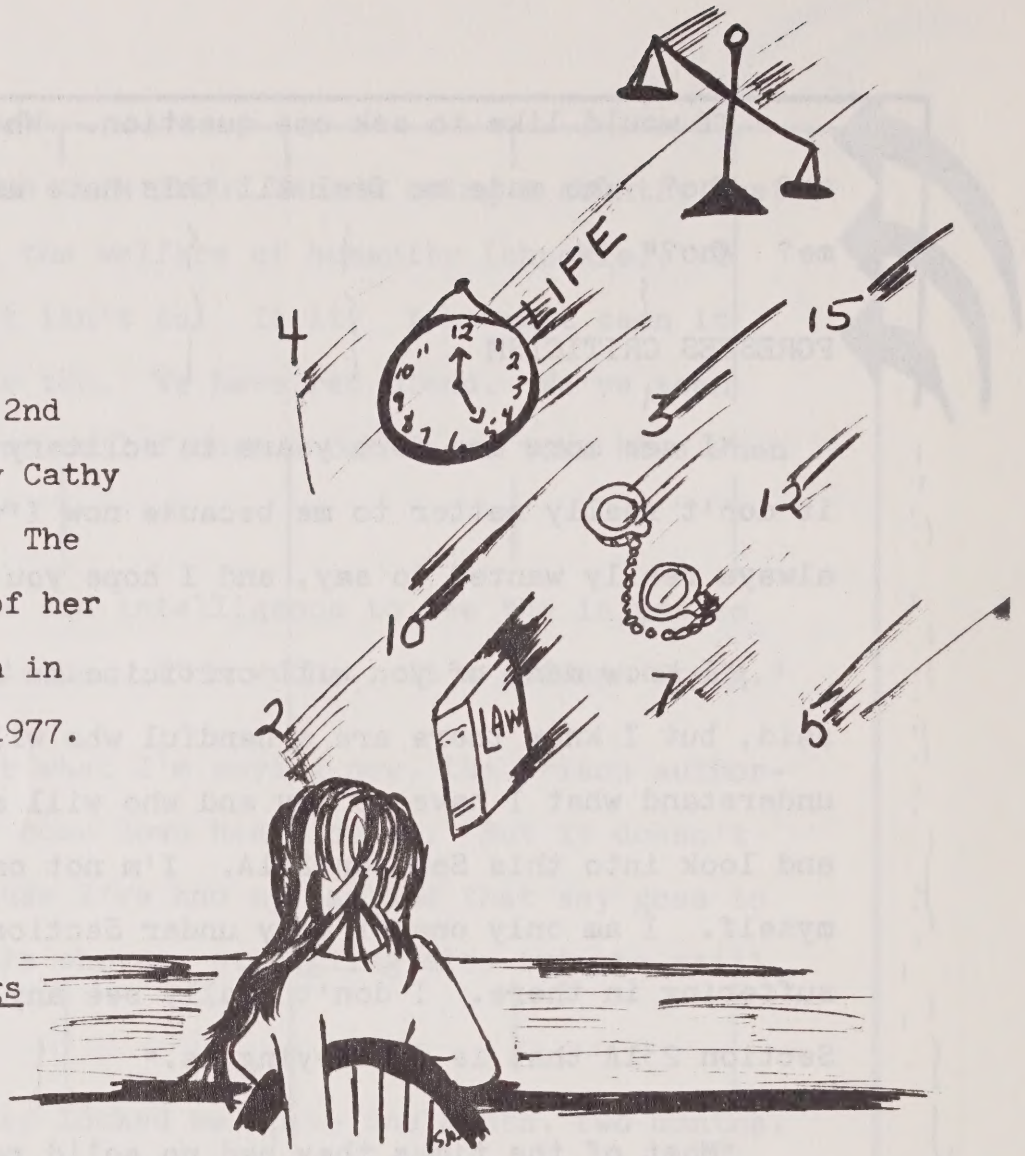
Learning About the
Legal System

Part 2

The following is the 2nd
in a 3-part series by Cathy
Watson from England. The
article is a result of her
interviews with women in
Canadian prisons in 1977.

Ed.

Finding Out How Things
Are Done



The experience of being charged with a criminal offence also provides the opportunity for learning first-hand about the way official people conduct their business in the courtroom. Here inexperienced women generally remark on three aspects of the criminal justice system - the apparently off-hand and cavalier way other people act, the "unreal" character of court proceedings, and the freedom with which the "facts" can be interpreted or misinterpreted.

Especially when women decide to plead guilty, court

appearances can be extremely brief and cursory. The defendant's input can be limited to stating her name and entering her plea. There is, then, a strict impersonality about the whole affair and the defendant herself can appear to be irrelevant to what goes on:

(How much came up about your personal history in the court hearings?) "Nothing, nothing at all. The fact that I didn't have a record, that's all. There was nothing about people or anything."

The significant interaction takes place between the lawyer, the Crown prosecutor, and the judge. Subjects relevant to them may be discussed, though these are often uninteresting or incomprehensible to the woman herself:

"In court it was all code this and code that. It was just the lawyer and the Crown prosecutor and the judge talking among themselves."

The light-hearted way in which matters are discussed can also emphasize the woman's perception of her own irrelevance and the lack of concern with people:

"(In court) it was all very cynical. A lot of people making cynical remarks... They were all joking around, being cynical to each other." (How cynical?) "Oh, every now and then they'd break out laughing. You know, you think court is going to be very solemn or something, but it was nothing like that. Nobody seemed to think that we were two human beings there. You know,

they talk to each other. You can't figure out what's going on."

If a woman does go to trial or if there is some detailed consideration of the circumstances of the offence or of the defendant, she is not completely excluded from court proceedings. However, she is not directly involved - it is more a question of what other people will make of how she appears, of the way she answers, or what is said about her. Court appearances are often described as being "like a movie" or "like a game." This perception seems to have a lot to do with the publicity and the formality of the situation and the fact that everything the woman does and says is mediated through her lawyer:

"Court is really a trip. It's unreal. It's like a movie. It's acting. You have to come on to them as a certain kind of person. It's all in the way you act..." (What kind of a person do you have to be?) "It's hard to say. You have to sit there, not smile, just watch. Like it all has nothing to do with you. And it's all intellectual. It's all in your head. All these statements come out. The lawyer asks you questions and you answer them, but of course it's all rehearsed beforehand. It's really a weird trip..." (Was it any different from the way you thought it would be?) "I don't really know. I can't remember. I knew what courts were like... I knew it was all a game. I knew it was all unreal. But I didn't know how much like a game, how unreal. It's just like being in a movie."

(Did you have any idea what it would be like in court?) "I didn't have any idea. I guess I've watched T.V. enough. I've seen a lot of shows 'bout courts and all, so I had some idea. But I had to ask my lawyer what to say, what to do. I didn't know I'd have to sit there as an accused in a box. And there're all those people watching. I don't like to be stared at. It's funny. It's all very strange. They call other people, you know, while you sit there waiting your turn. I'm always shaking, really nervous." (So it's pretty different from what you knew from T.V.?) "Yeah. I knew in a way what it was going to be like from that. But somehow, I didn't realize I was going to court. To me it just seems like a room with a bunch of people. It doesn't seem like a court. It's like - acting. And you sit there thinking, I'm really in shit, I'm really in trouble. And it's just a room, a room with a whole lot of people."

Despite the ceremony and formality, a good deal of argument and counter-argument often goes on about the "facts" of the case. Competing versions of the same events can be presented, and these may be very different from the way the defendant remembered them. Women who are new to the criminal justice system can be surprised by two things - first, that officials can be less than scrupulous in the version of events that they present and, second, that decisions are somehow arrived at in the face of confusing and conflicting testimony:

"... All the injustices there are. I used to believe in the law till all this happened. I couldn't believe it. All the lies told in court."

And they were all contradicting themselves as well." (Later) "I got to court for the trial and there were 10 different stories, all contradicting each other. I don't know how the judge made sense out of it all."

Finding out how things are done involves discovering a curious mixture of formality and informality. In the courtroom the defendant is a witness to a variety of technical procedures and routine practices that seem to have little to do with who she is or what she has done. However, the attitude of the lawyers and court officials may be far from ceremonious and the information on which decisions are based may seem shaky, uncertain, or deliberately distorted.⁽²⁾ The comparison between court appearances and movies or games seems to be quite apt, for, as in movies and games, there are set conventions and rules but everyone knows that the participants are not really committed to what is happening and are not really affected by the outcome. The difference, of course, is that in court appearances the defendant is affected by what happens.

Different sorts of cases vary in the degree to which

(2) The argument or uncertainty about the "facts" of the case need not always work against the defendant, since the judge can select and act on an interpretation favourable to her.

they are routine and impersonal. Strong feelings may be involved - in particular, when the case involves physical harm to another person. The defendant's experience can then be a highly personal one and she can be the object of moral comment from witnesses, prosecutors, newspaper reports, and people in the community. Even in less "serious" cases (for example, drug offences) the woman can be the object of moral comment if her background suggests to the prosecutor or the judge that she is a "professional" or if her or her lawyer's conduct of the case suggests that she is insufficiently respectful of judicial proceedings. A woman can find that who she is or what she has done are significant issues and that other people do seem to have an investment in the final decision. Again, however, the discussion of moral matters goes on around the defendant and occurs in the context of adversary courtroom tactics and public ceremony. Like the "facts" of the case, a woman's moral character and the moral or social implications of her action are subjects that can be variously interpreted and misinterpreted. Much can depend on appearances and what people make of them:

"I knew I was supposed to cry, but somehow I couldn't do it. When the judge sentenced me, I felt he was taking away half my life, but I wasn't going to show it. That's another thing that came up against me. When the

prosecutor said his little piece at the end he said I didn't show any emotion. Like he was making out I was hard through and through. But then if I'd cried he would of said it was out of guilt for what I'd done. Out of remorse. So they get you either way."

(How did they bring up the fact that you were a nightclub dancer?) "In court they did that, yes. The cops said things like, she used real bad language. It doesn't surprise me with the things she was doing on the outside. They wanted to prove I was that type..." (Later) "For them I was a professional. It wasn't my first time. I was a criminal for them. Because I was a nightclub dancer and because of the people I mixed with. I was from the criminal milieu."

There is, then, a limit to the apparently indifferent and cynical character of the law. However, the possibility that the participants will become "serious" seems to be kept in reserve for certain kinds of cases. Serious moral commentary also seems to be reserved for certain occasions - for example, the sentencing.⁽³⁾ Even then, what is important is the inferences that are made or the things that are said about the defendant - principally by other people. The ceremony then can become personalised but the woman generally remains a witness to it.

(3) Again the discussion of moral issues and of the defendant's moral character need not be damaging. Some women felt that the judge was either being fair in the sentence he imposed and the justification he gave for it.

(cont. next issue)



REPORT ON MILLHAVEN AND THE

SPECIAL HANDLING UNIT

Sharon Murray-Zakarian

On March 15, 1978 the Whig-Standard carried a story about Millhaven which began: "Millhaven Institution may finally be settling down to the point where long term progress is possible." The demonstration of the weekend of April 8 and 9 seemed to support this optimism.

Plans had been in the works to improve conditions at Millhaven and the new Director, Henry Neufeld appeared to be in favor of reviewing and changing the situation. When the new Solicitor-General, Mr. Blais, visited Millhaven March 13, he was given a list of proposals for the SHU by the Inmate Committee. According to Howard Brown, Inmate Committee member and chairman of Odyssey Group at Millhaven, Mr. Blais said he would study the proposals. An article in the Whig March 14 quoted Mr. Blais as being "concerned about the 'terrible' confinement of the prisoners in the special handling unit."

The prisoners' demonstration of April 8 and 9 was aimed at the proposals made for the SHU, especially the ones about more recreation time out of the cells, TV's and programs for the men when they were back in the cells. The prisoners were concerned that these proposals were slow in being implemented

and the demonstration was aimed at hurrying up the improvements for the SHU.

In the past, demonstrations at Millhaven have been handled with force and conditions afterwards have only worsened. This demonstration, according to news reports, was handled in a reasonable manner. Outside advisors and negotiators were brought in (2 members from the Millhaven Citizens Advisory Committee and a reporter from the Toronto Star) and talks were held. Taking part in the talks were the outsiders, administration (including Mr. Neufeld) and prisoners (two from the SHU itself). There was no violence and after 2 days of negotiating, an agreement was reached. Prisoners returned to their cells and it was over. It was agreed that a followup would be made in 2 weeks by the Citizens Advisory and the Star reporter, Mr. Littman, to see that the agreements were carried out.

A conference of Citizens Advisory Committees was held the following week in Ottawa. Mr. Neufeld told the conference that the negotiations during the demonstration did not go against the federal policy of "no deals" with prisoners during demonstrations because all the proposals were old ones and the prisoners were demonstrating to get them carried out faster, not to gain new ones. It is to Mr. Neufeld's credit

that he can make this important distinction and says a great deal for his willingness to listen to reason. It is our hope that he will be able to act similarly for the general population there. His handling of the latest demonstration is a good start and seems to indicate a hopeful future for Millhaven.

Some of the problems Mr. Neufeld will have to deal with in the future were outlined by Howard Brown in a letter to TIGHTWIRE. Howard is an Inmate Committee member, chairman of the Odyssey Group and was part of the negotiating team in the April demonstration. His letter mentions some of the improvements as well and is excerpted below:

" ...Right now we are trying to straighten out the mess that our living conditions have gotten into over the past 6 years, and it's a headache that I don't even want to bother trying to describe. Our T.V. and radio system has been on the blink for over 4 years; we don't have anywhere at the moment to play cards, etc., other than in the T.V. common-rooms. These are just two examples. Imagine yourself in a common-room trying to watch, and listen to a T.V. program, while the T.V. has nothing but snow and distorted sound, and 10 or 12 other guys are playing cards. Your skin just crawls up and down the walls. This is one of our biggest fights at

the moment, and most of the opposition is coming from security. All we can do is hope that the new Director will see things our way on this. A lot of frustration and tension will certainly disappear if the cards rooms are reinstated. It's been many years since we had them last...."

" We had a pretty decent hockey season this year, with about 70 guys participating in a major and minor league. The ice lasted quite a bit longer than it usually does, and for a change there was some interest. We had a number of outside teams come in for week-end games; one of these was from Queen's University. The Director has just approved a sports banquet for the hockey players, at which they will be able to invite one person from their visiting list. The banquet is scheduled for either the last week in April, or the first week in May, and hopefully this will be an opening for more and better family socials. "

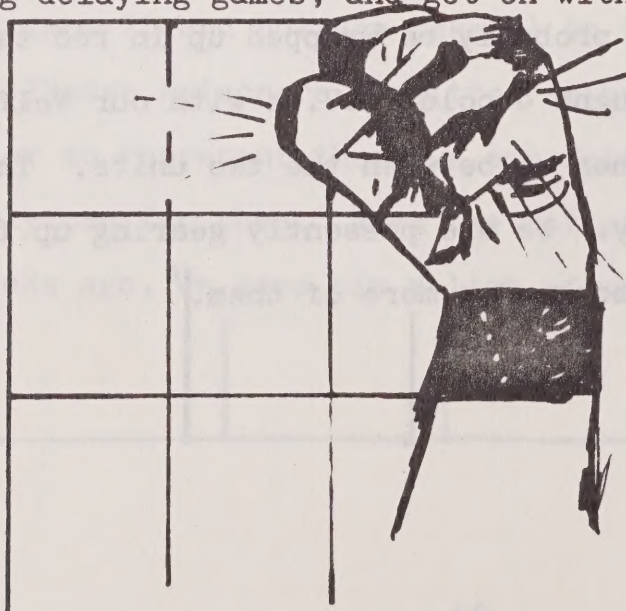
" Although the Director has made his position very clear on the prisoners in the Special Handling Unit (those doing the minimum 25 and hostage takers) in that he doesn't want the Millhaven Prisoners Committee to have any contact with them, or to represent them, we are doing everything that we possibly can for them. When the Solicitor General came here two weeks ago, we gave him a list of proposals that we had

typed up for the SHU, and he said that he would study them when he got back to his office. So far we have seen no attempts to try to implement these proposals, or to even go in and discuss them with the SHU representatives. We hope that this isn't an indication of Mr. Blais' concern for these men. In any event, the Committee will continue to bring the injustices of the SHU to the attention of the government and the people of Canada."

" Millhaven has a new head of the kitchen, a Mr. Petr, and believe it or not, the food has improved considerably since he took over. After the food that we have had to put up with in the past, the difference is like night and day. We hope that they don't promote him to some other joint for doing a good job."

" Several proposals are in the works which would allow us to have tape players in our cells. Typewriters have just been approved for anyone who wants one, and they are looking into the idea of us having our own personal T.V.'s in our cells, although this idea will probably be wrapped up in red tape for a few years. We bought 4 color T.V.'s with our Welfare Fund money, and split them up between the two units. These are used for sports only. We are presently gearing up for 3 or 4 drives to raise money for more of them."

➡ "For the future we hope to see some very positive steps being taken towards rehabilitation programs, and I'm not talking about some bullshit course that only takes 8 weeks to finish, and which, when you present your certificate to the people on the street you are hoping will hire you, causes those people to laugh their guts out and send you on your way. I'm talking about an electronics course, a mechanics course, an electricians course, and a plumbers course. These are courses that require at least 5 years apprenticeship, and when you have completed them, will give you a much better chance for a job. If a man is going to have to stay here for 5 years or more, why shouldn't he be given the chance to learn a real trade, instead of wasting those 5 years working in the mail bag repair, which is nothing but slave labor, and exploitation of the system. It's time that the government gave very serious thought towards rehabilitation in maximum security prisons, and if they are going to change the system towards this end, then it's time that Mr. Blais and Trudeau stop playing delaying games, and get on with it."



Talks end protest; calm at Millhaven

By BILL HUTCHISON
Staff Writer

A 55-hour protest at Millhaven Institution ended peacefully early this morning when 275 convicts returned to their cells.

Nine hours of talks involving prison officials, inmate representatives, members of the public, and two journalists produced a 19-point statement about changes in living conditions in the prison's special handling unit. The unit houses murderers, hostage-takers, and other convicts who are considered the most dangerous or escape-prone in the Canadian prison system.

Director Henry Neufeld said there was no violence or property damage during the protest. He said staff members were ready to use force and tear gas if injury or "smashing" had occurred. Both the RCMP and the armed forces had been informally alerted, he added.

He said the agreement did not violate the penitentiary service's "no deals" policy because the 19 areas of concern had been presented to officials early in March and decisions had been made well before the protest took place. He added that no new points were discussed during the talks because that would have been negotiating under duress. The inmates staged the protest in an attempt to hasten improvements in the special unit.

The negotiating group will meet again in two weeks to review progress and discuss the role of special handling units within the prison system.

Basically, the agreement ensures the 47 prisoners in the special handling unit will get more time out of their cells plus increased sports and recreation activities. At present, they are permitted between 4½ — 7

hours out of their cells in a 48 hour period.

Journalist Max Keeping of CJOH, Ottawa, described the talks which stretched from 11 a.m. Sunday to this morning as having "a pretty good feeling the whole time". They were "like union negotiations". He said he and the inmate representatives were "most impressed" with director Neufeld who has held the position for 2½ months.

The protest began when prisoners refused to return to their cells at the normal lock-up time of 11:30 p.m. Friday, said Mr. Neufeld. The protesters were confined to their ranges behind barriers and armed guard posts. Food was brought in regularly over the weekend.

The director met with the protesters shortly after the demonstration began and work began to assemble a negotiating

(See Millhaven, Page 2)

Millhaven

(Continued from Page 1)

group for Sunday's talks.

Included in the talks were Mr. Neufeld and other prison officials, the chairman of the elected inmate committee, John Gillies, and two committee members Howie Brown and Ron Grant, special handling unit representatives Ed McCaffrey and Frank Smoke, three members of the citizens' advisory committee to Millhaven, Kingston lawyer Terry O'Hara, Mr. Keeping and Sol Littman of the Toronto Star.

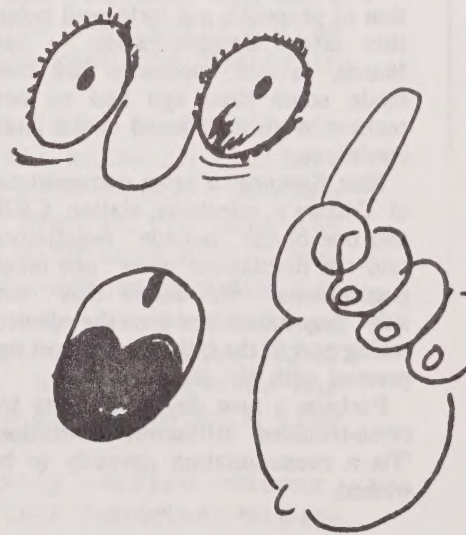
Mr. Keeping described McCaffrey as "very bright", Brown as "one of the lawyers", and Grant as "very articulate".

A prison official said McCaffrey

had been involved in similar protests at an eastern prison.

Television was one of the areas of prisoner concern. Prisoners in the special unit will receive black and white television sets for their cells because of the lengthy periods they spend there. Millhaven's other prisoners requested that two of the colored television sets purchased with their own money be transferred to the unit.

Mr. Neufeld warned the prisoners that another protest would probably be met with force. He added that he could not categorically rule out talks in all future circumstances.



Whig-Standard **R. D. Owen**
April 15, 1978

Millhaven: Deal or no deal, it worked out well

By R. D. Owen

The calm approach taken by Millhaven Institution Warden Henry Neufeld to the 55-hour protest by 275 convicts over last weekend produced a peaceful settlement without the usual wrecking of cells and so forth.

Mr. Neufeld discussed the complaints voiced by convict representatives with them and several civilians from the "outside."

No force was used, but the warden did say it would have been had the protesters injured anyone or did any "smashing."

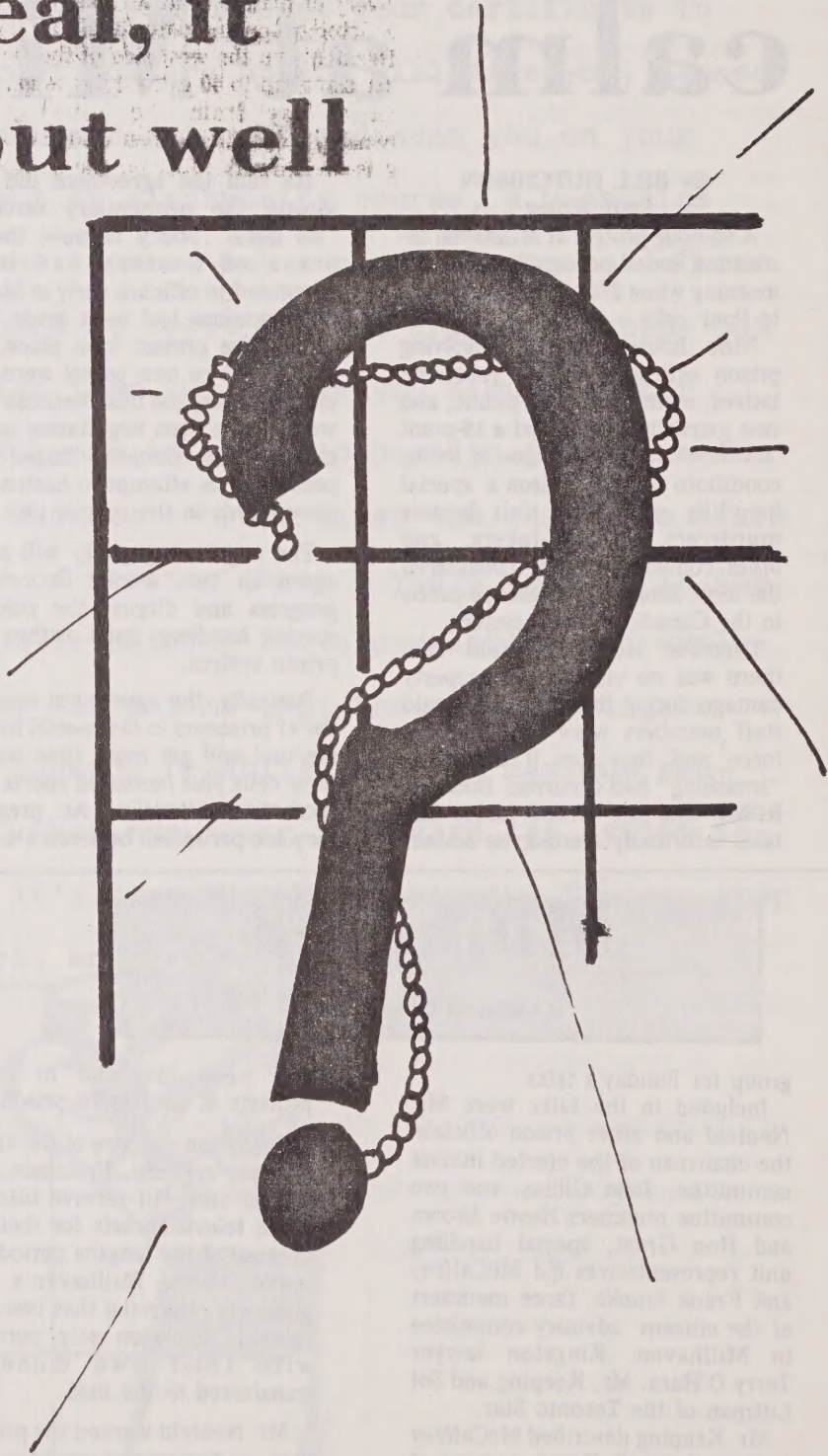
A 19-point program was drawn up outlining changes in prison routine for the 49 convicts who are in a special "handling unit." These are considered the most dangerous and escape-prone types in the Canadian prison system.

On the face of it, this agreement appeared to be a "deal" — which prison authorities have ruled out at any prison. However, the protest was staged primarily to speed up implementation of proposals put forth well before this latest demonstration — last March, in fact. Decisions had been made some time ago and no new matters were introduced at the latest conference.

Max Keeping, a news commentator at Ottawa's television station CJOH and one of the "outside" negotiators, said the discussions were "like union negotiations." He added that "outside" negotiators and even the convicts taking part in the talks "were most impressed with Mr. Neufeld."

Perhaps a new day is dawning for often-troubled Millhaven Institution. 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished.

* * *

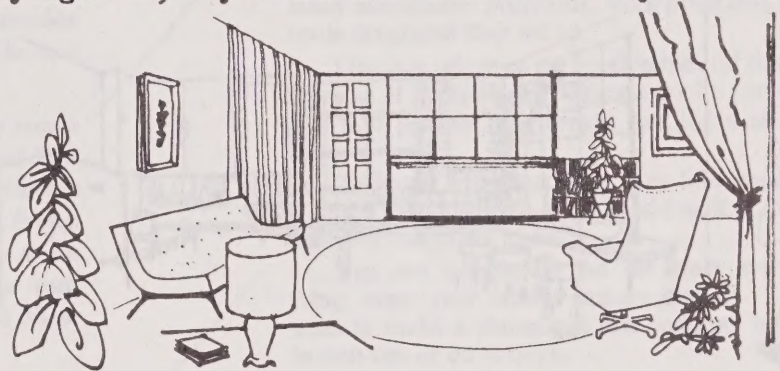


Give Me A Home...

By John Phillips (Of Archambault Maximum Security Institution)

The importance of a man's home, and family, goes all the way back to the age of the hominids—a term coined by an anthropologist to designate early man at the stage of evolution in which he walked erect, had learned to use tools and weapons of a sort, but behaved according to his retained animal instincts. We know, from paleontological studies, that man at this stage defended his home and family, much as the higher animals did, against all enemies, even if it meant dying in the process. It was an instinctive reaction, not a sense of duty as we understand it. Over the ages, it evolved into a thought-out duty, as we know it at our level of evolution, when we acknowledge the need, and importance, of a sense of responsibility, which is usually accepted by civilized males and rejected, or simply ignored, by those who have absolutely no sense of social obligation.

History teaches us that man, in the course of his evolution, has lost most of his noble instincts. That, of course, is just a fancy title for the natural traits acquired as he developed the ability to adapt to a hostile environment. "Noble" because in the process of learning to survive he had



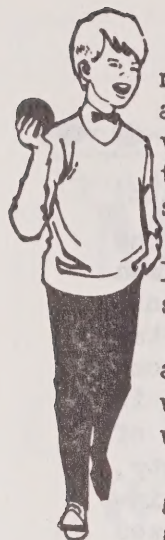
picked up the habit of defending his mate and offspring, as well as his fellow hunters, who were part of his troop or tribe. If a wild animal attacked any one of them, they all instinctively united to destroy that animal.

To compensate the loss of these so-called noble instincts, man tried, and is still trying, to replace them with a learning process, which is not always successful.

Among the higher animals, the male there also seems to have lost his "noble instincts." A study of the male lion shows that he will stand by the lioness while she is pregnant, as well as after she gives birth to a litter of cubs, also while they are still young and helpless; but, as soon as they can move around, he will walk away, leaving the responsibility for the family to the lioness. In any case, it usually was she who hunted and kept the family in food, while the male was content to do the baby-sitting.

On paper, the male of the human species works hard to keep the family in food and under shelter, but it isn't necessarily true of all males in civilized society. Men will abandon wife and children when the going gets tough. Or when he is fed up with a wife who has lost her sexual appeal. Even in the most attractive women, the psychological source of arousal fades with each child they bear. Or simply with the passing years. Or, even in this modern day and age in medicine, a primipara of frail build, undergoing delivery at the hands of some obstetrical butcher, without benefit of episiotomy, will suffer major physical damage, sometimes including a fissure that, when healed, leaves her as not too desirable a bed playmate. Who the hell wants to use shims at a time like that?

In any case, too often the husband walks out for purely selfish reasons. The Christian Church is fighting a losing battle against this important situation. It's not possible to keep a marriage intact by an arbitrary and abstract morality. It takes more than a mystic concept and a bunch of rules to keep a



marriage on a solid footing, and marriages that do last a lifetime are due to an intelligent approach and to assessing, then accepting or rejecting all the values involved, with special reference to the male's ability to understand the needs and problems of the female. All this has nothing to do with the so-called Christian morality.

When we bring the whole problem of home and family, and the attendant problems, around to the plight of the prison inmate, male, we come up against some situations not prevalent in normal civilian life.

In any sociological survey of male prison inmates, the most common finding, among married men, is that they learn to appreciate the wife only after they wind up inside the walls. This, of course, excludes all bad marriages or bad wives. It becomes still more important when there are children.

Ironically, the so-called hard-core criminals are invariably married to a good woman who is a good mother. None of the fast-moving, easygoing glamor girls with whom the criminal ran around before his arrest and conviction have

any of the qualities his wife has, and it is this that makes the con open his eyes wide enough to appreciate both her social values and her charms, which he had never been able to see while a free man.

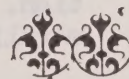
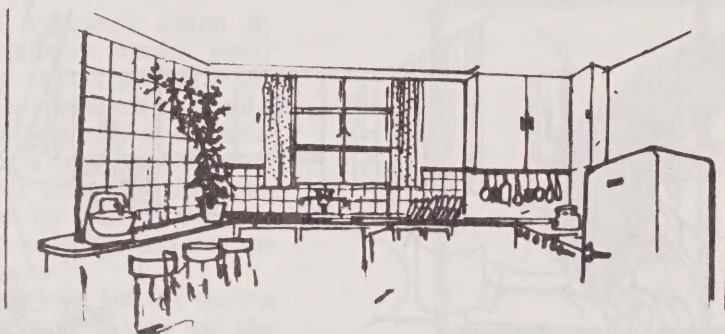
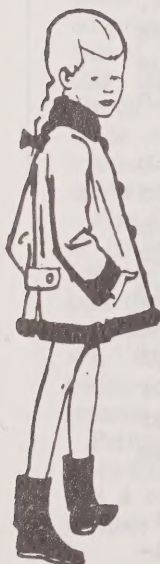
During the long nights, when sleep will not come and the restless inmate surrenders his mind to the

fantasies that parade before his troubled consciousness, the wife usually is first. The playgirls are shoved aside because of the matter of true values in opposition.

Another common finding is that after a man has been behind bars over a year he begins to worry about losing his wife. And well he should. Although about sixty percent of good wives will stick by their husband, a woman has a perfect right to expect social and sexual fulfillment, and some feel that they have to start their life all over again after the marriage has been wrecked by a long prison term for the husband.

Rehabilitation is a big joke when the Canadian Penitentiaries Service talks about it, but it becomes serious business when the inmate himself begins to think about it. There is one ingredient that goes into rehabilitation on which most people from both sides of the fence agree: No rehabilitation is possible unless the inmate himself begins contemplating it but only from the practical, realistic point of view, which has nothing to do with the religious approach. The "religious approach," as such, has nothing to do with religion itself. It simply means that the inmate begins doing the things people want him to do, or doing them to please his classification officer, with a view to getting a favorable report on his parole application. Things like that. Nothing sincere there. He becomes sincere only when he decides he's tired of doing time or he doesn't want to lose his wife and kids. That sort of situation.

There is one clear-cut, well defined indication of the need, or desire, to work out his rehabilitation. It might be seen in perhaps one case in fifty, but it's positive. It's when the inmate develops a sudden interest in architectural drawing, on the amateur level. He begins drawing plans for a house. A home. A man wants a home for his family only when he's ready to settle down.



'Life in a prison is the most unnatural thing there is'

Toronto Star Limited

★ *Pat Devlin has spent 30 of his 62 years behind bars. As a result he is thoroughly familiar with life in Canadian and American prisons.*

Born near London, Ont., Devlin spent his childhood in Detroit, Michigan. In trouble with the police at the age of 9 or 10, he was deported to Canada at the age of 18.

Since then he has engaged in safe cracking, bank robbery, drug trafficking and "the general run of crime." Devlin has done time in Millhaven, Kingston, Joyceville and Prince Albert. He is now serving a life term in a medium security prison near Kingston for trafficking in drugs. In prison he works as a chaplain's assistant.

Devlin offers his view of what is wrong with Canada's federal penitentiaries.

By PAT DEVLIN

I've seen men in prison killed over little things like a pack of cigarettes. What's a pack of cigarettes?

In a jail in Michigan, two guys wound up in an argument over a card game. One pulled a knife. The other guy walked off and came back with a file without a handle and tried to drive it in the man's head.

They weren't violent men when they came into the joint. But in prison there is no relaxation. Little things that you would normally laugh off or overlook build into real tensions. Finally they explode.

After being in prison for five years, the gap between an institution and society may be too wide to bridge. I remember two cases of men who committed suicide after being in for 10 years. One was a former fighter. He did time in San Quentin. When he came out he had all the help in the world. Ford Motor Co. gave him a job as a security man, but still he blew his brains out. He left a note saying the gap was just too wide.

You can't rehabilitate a man in prison. Rehabilitation is a decision a man makes himself. It's his decision whether he intends to straighten out his life or not. But when you confine men for long periods there's very few of them straighten out because they have completely lost contact with reality.

The trouble is they keep men too long.

When you cut people off from their loved ones and confine them in these institutions for 5, 10 or 12 years, you're bound to destroy them.

No good comes from prison, no matter how many educational programs, work programs or trade programs they set up.

Life in a prison is the most unnatural thing there is. It is capable of taking a gentle person and in a year or two turning you into a madman.

To begin with, you lock men into cages. You are lonely enough in the world as it is, but here you are really alone.

You are completely cut off from everything, even your letters are scrutinized. You want to make a phone call and you may have to wait two or three days.

You feel so helpless. If you want to leave your cell, you have to stand by the door and wait for a guard to unlock it.

You're completely isolated from the opposite sex. You have no relationships whatsoever. Occasionally, if you are fortunate enough to have somebody that comes and visits you, you can see them in the visiting room.

As a kid you were taught that things like drugs and robbery are wrong. Then you're confined with people that are into these things. You find out they're not bad guys; they're just like everyone else.

The next thing you are saying what the hell is wrong with drugs. This guy uses drugs and that guy drinks whisky.

You start getting a different set of values. What's-his-name robbed a bank and got thirty or forty thousand. But he didn't shoot anybody so what's wrong with that.

You look in the newspapers and read all about the politicians using their power to take things. You realize that's what politics is for. Why does a guy spend a fortune getting elected to office unless he plans to profit by it?

Take the Watergate scandal. All you have to do is just listen to the tapes. It was no different than sitting in the common room listening to some guys cutting up some score. Only it was smaller money, that's all.

You remember the riot in Kingston in April 1971? I was there at the time.

Kingston 'a hellhole'

Kingston was a hellhole. It is an ancient prison and it was run in a very inhumane manner. There was the old style discipline. Someone hollering at you from the time you got up in the morning to the time you went to bed at night. "Straighten up that line. Get your hands out of your pocket. Cut off those sideburns. Come here, you." Everybody was treated just like a dog.

It's a system that appeals to most guards. They keep everyone locked in their cells and they can sit and play cards. Their idea of prison is to put a man in a cage and lock the door. Then they have nothing to worry about.

One day it just blew.

When the riot ended, Kingston was a shambles and we were all transferred to Millhaven. When we got there we were put through a gauntlet of guards with clubs and baseball bats beating the prisoners. The old-type guards that ran Kingston were in command again.

The guard's union has become so strong even the wardens don't run the prisons anymore. They are under threat of a strike all the time. In the old days, the warden ran the prison and he told the guards what to do. Now they can't move them from one position to another without a hassle with the union.

The whole layout in Millhaven is devised to drive people crazy. There are guns everywhere you look. When you go to work, every few feet there is a gate or a door that is opened by a guard sitting in a control room. You are searched going in and going out of the shop. While you work guards stand in a cage above the room pointing a gun.

Men have trouble sleeping at night. I used to read until 2 or 3 in the morning until I was tired enough to sleep. You take younger men — there's not too much of an outlet for their energy because they are confined so much. The cell begins to close in on them, they can't sleep. You hear guys going crazy, screaming and hollering at night. They just can't take it anymore.

An awful lot of men mutilate themselves, slash their arms with razor blades or attempt suicide.

Everything is getting inflated. Back in the 1950s a narcotic offender was a rarity in prison. Not that people weren't doing drugs; but if you were in for a narcotic violation you went sent to a reformatory. The maximum penalty in those days was seven years.

Now the place is full of kids who are doing 8 years, 10 years, 15 years for narcotic offences. These are outrageous sentences for non-violent crimes.

The courts didn't use to hand out the amount of time they're handing out today. They knew there was no parole, so it was two years less time off for good behavior and that was it.

Today they feel that the guy is going to be out on parole after serving one-third of his time, so instead of giving him two, they sock him with four or six.

People think there is a swinging door in and out of these places. They are wrong because a guy's chances of parole are not that good. As a result you see so many men staggering under sentences all out of proportion of the crime they committed.

No friendly feeling

As for guards, how the hell are you going to have a feeling of comradeship with the guy that turns the key on you? You say to yourself, okay, this guy is all right, he doesn't mean me any harm. But the first time there's a little disturbance he's one of the guys hitting you on the head.

I have been in institutions where violence to prisoners by guards was common. I've seen some pretty horrible things go down. I've seen men kicked and beaten. Sometimes it was necessary to use force to control someone but once it got started it goes too far.

One of the biggest causes for discontent in the prison system is mandatory supervision. In the old days you got time off for good behavior. So many days a month. No one could take it away from you. You earned it and it was yours.

Now, whatever time you get off you spend under supervision of a parole officer. If he doesn't like your friends or your lifestyle, he can send you back to serve all of your sentence including your good time. Even if it is the last day you are on parole, he can just yank you back. And there's no appeal from his judgment.

Men used to work hard to earn time off. Now they don't care. They figure they are going to do their full sentence one way or another.

That's why there is so much violence in prison now. They figure they have nothing to lose. Sentences are so long they can't see the end of it. Behaving well doesn't count for anything.

No wonder it's hell.

No chance for rehabilitation in prison, inmate claims

I am an inmate at Kingston Penitentiary serving two years for fraud.

I am not complaining about serving time; after all, I am solely responsible for my own personal predicament.

However, having served 11 months of the sentence, I am entitled to apply for national parole. I have, instead, applied twice for day parole but was turned down in each instance. I have informed the parole board that I am 64 years of age and not exactly in robust health and I want the opportunity to rehabilitate myself. That is something that no one can do in these institutions.

The problem appears to be that one's destiny is largely in the hands of one man — the classification officer. If his report to the parole board is unfavorable, the inmate has absolutely no alternative but to go along with the decision, unless, of course, he is able to obtain unbiased outside help.

The officer in question, has informed me that for the last 20 years the Canadian prison system has not attempted to rehabilitate any inmate. That is a pretty sad commentary on the present correctional services system, especially when the government of Canada is spending millions of dollars building bigger and better prisons and hiring more and more expensive personnel, with less and less results to show for the effort.

When I am released on mandatory parole in September, 1978, I will be forced to go on welfare, as I have no private funds. By that time, I will have earned approximately \$100.

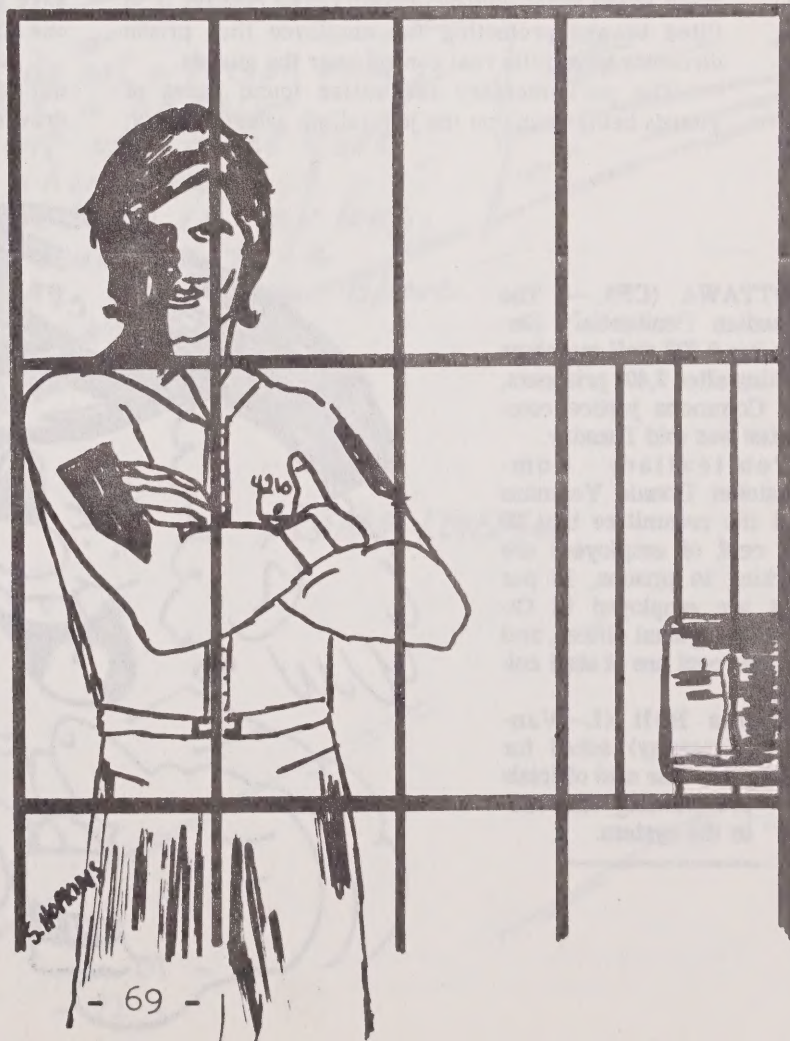
If I had been granted parole now, I have people out there who were interested in my welfare but they will have left town by the time I am released. The present system is simply encouraging the perpetuation of a huge bungling bureaucracy.

The federal law reform commission on diversion and restitution

states that most of the people incarcerated in Canadian penal institutions — 80 per cent — are not a danger to the general public.

How come then that the system is geared to making people save time, which can only produce better criminals with more bitterness and frustration than when they were first admitted?

FRANK MONCRIEFF
Kingston



Be a bad prison guard and live well

Want a ticket on the gravy train? Get a job as a prison guard, then botch it so badly that your boss has to send you home.

That's what the Canadian Penitentiary Service did last year when it determined that one of the Millhaven guards just wasn't suited for contact with inmates. For nine months he collected full salary for staying away.

Now he has a special job at a staff college, on his guard's salary, keeping weapons and tear gas supplies shipshape. It's a job that had to be specially created for him.

Before any prison reform can be effective the relationship between guards and prison administrators has to be overhauled. Today, with the rules laid down by the Public Service Commission, prison directors are hobbled in taking virtually any disciplinary action against guards.

Even though a parliamentary committee named the Millhaven guard as responsible for precipitating a two-day riot that resulted in \$200,000 damage, the Millhaven bosses couldn't muster enough solid evidence to stand up should the guard appeal a suspension or firing.

It happens this way all the time. Prison authorities are understandably reluctant to take the word of inmates when disciplining guards and it's difficult to get other guards to testify. The process is so tilted toward protecting the employee that prison directors have little real control over the guards.

The parliamentary committee found cases of guards being drunk on the job, falling asleep on duty,

stealing equipment and supplying inmates with contraband — and still keeping their jobs.

That's some model for the inmates and the community. When prison guards can escape punishment for being lazy, incompetent or even criminal, the lifestyle that led many inmates inside is reinforced and respect for authority is further diminished.

There was a time, before prison guards were unionized, when wardens exercised arbitrary and often indiscriminate power over them, shamelessly firing guards for such things as failure to salute a superior.

Nobody would suggest going back to those days of unenlightened employee relations. But equally intolerable is the extreme we see today where the administrators can't, or are afraid to, fire anyone.

It's long past time to strengthen management control over prison guards, by removing their union from the oversight of the Public Service Commission, taking senior guards out of the union, substituting compulsory arbitration for the right to strike and tightening up on grievance procedures so that incompetence or unsuitability become legitimate grounds for action.

Until then, prison administrators shouldn't be so namby-pamby about weeding out unsuitable guards. Even if the results aren't felt immediately the message would be understood by the guards and everyone else.

Anything has got to be better than the total sell-out of simply sending a problem guard home, to draw his pay while doing nothing.

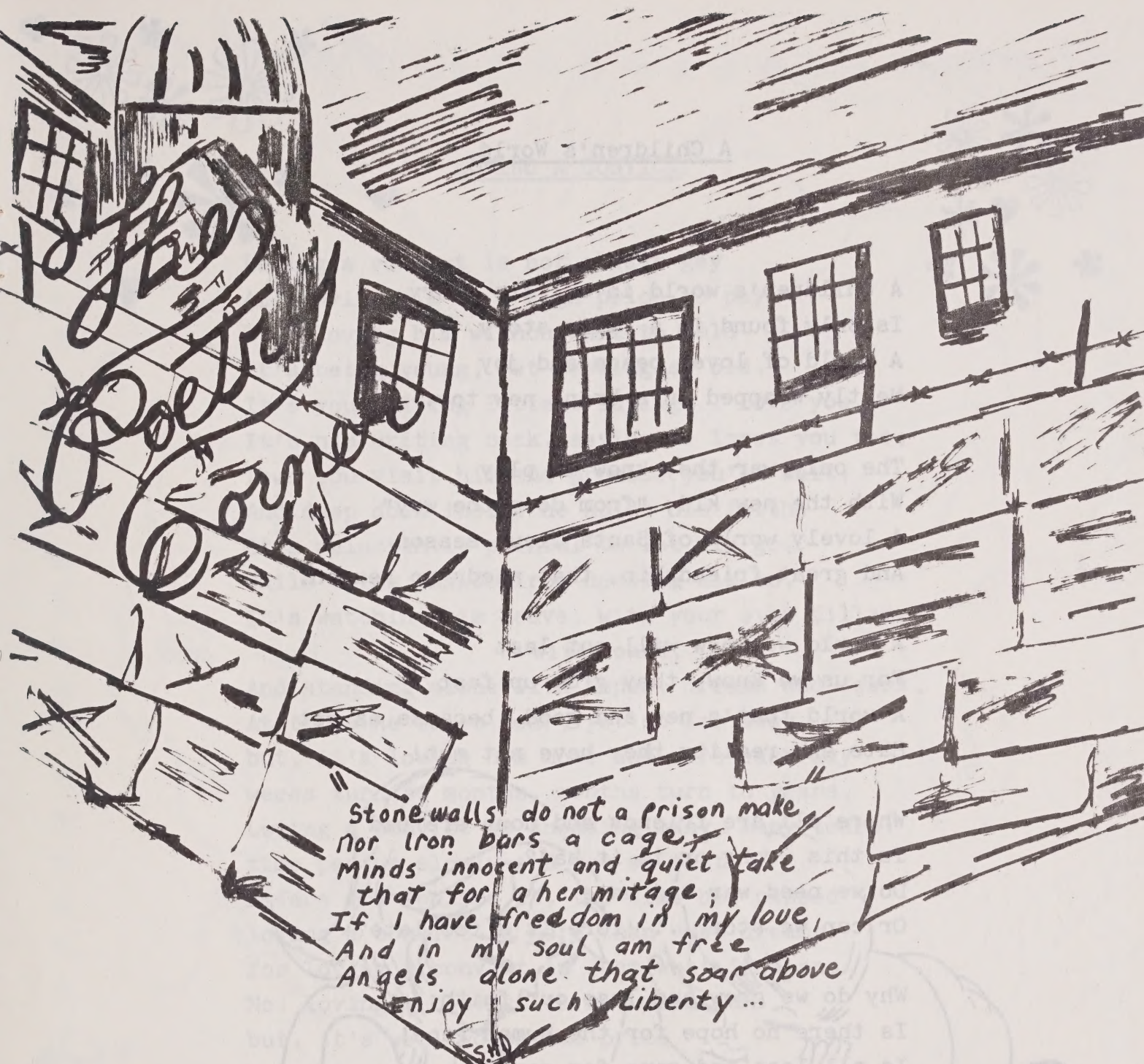
OTTAWA (CP). — The Canadian Penitentiary Service has 9,020 staff members looking after 9,401 prisoners, the Commons justice committee was told Tuesday.

Penitentiary Commissioner Donald Yeomans told the committee that 89 per cent of employees are working in prisons, 10 per cent are employed in Ottawa or regional offices, and one per cent are at staff colleges.

Simma Holt (L—VancouverKingsway) asked for the figures. She said officials are "proliferating like rabbits" in the system.



Toronto Star - Feb. 22/78



Stone walls do not a prison make
Nor iron bars a cage,
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for a hermitage;
If I have freedom in my love,
And in my soul am free,
Angels alone that soar above
Enjoy such liberty...

— RICHARD LOVELACE

A Children's World

A children's world in all its glory
Is only found in a fairy story
A world of love, peace and joy
Neatly wrapped in a brand new toy.

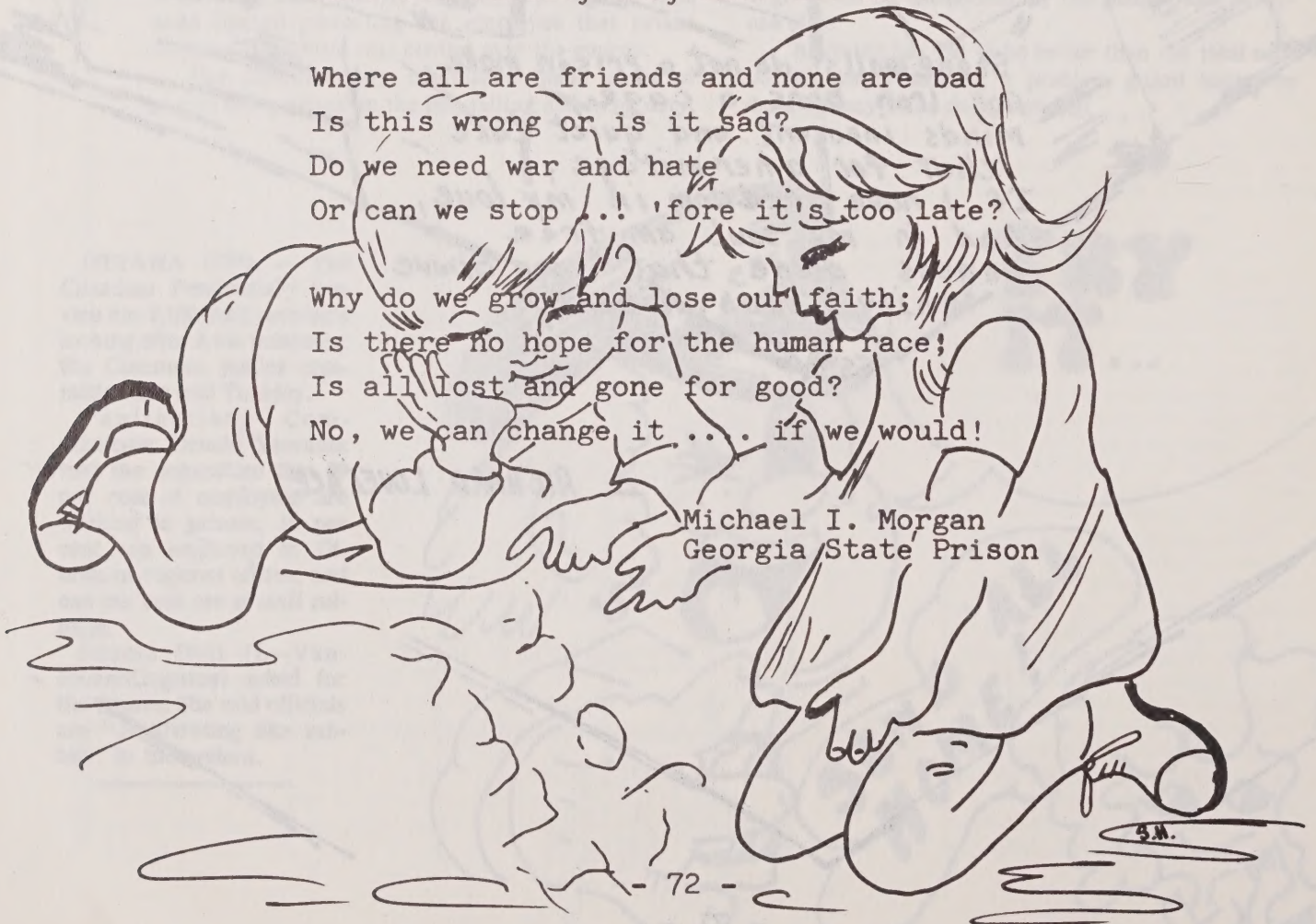
The only war they know is play
With the new kid, "from down the way"
A lovely world of Santa Claus season
And great friendship, that needs no reason.

A world we know will not last
For us we know, they grow up fast
A world that's new and good, because as yet
Hate and reality they have not met!

Where all are friends and none are bad
Is this wrong or is it sad?
Do we need war and hate
Or can we stop ..! 'fore it's too late?

Why do we grow and lose our faith;
Is there no hope for the human race;
Is all lost and gone for good?
No, we can change it if we would!

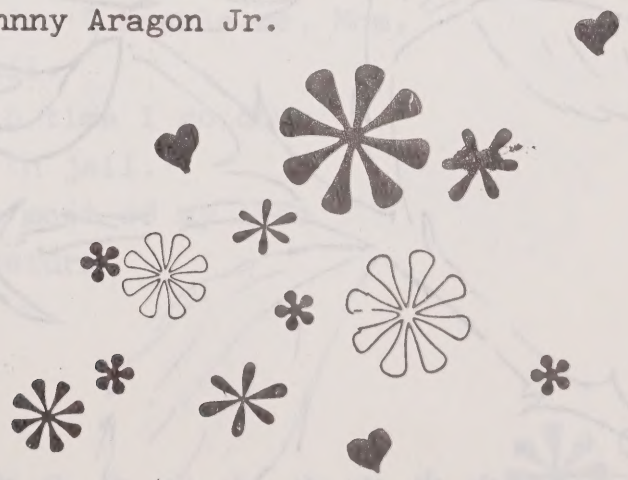
Michael I. Morgan
Georgia State Prison



LOVING A CONVICT

Loving a convict is not always gay
And loving him is a high price to pay
It's loving him without him to hold
it's being young, yet feeling so old,
It's you writing letters saying, I love you,
It's him writing back, saying he loves you too,
Then you visit him and promise you'll wait,
And deep down inside he holds his faith,
It's reluctantly painful to let him go,
While dying inside from needing him so,
It's watching him leave, with your eyes filled
with tears,
And standing alone with hopes, dreams and fears.
At times he is so near, yet so far away
but, it's loving him more and more each day
weeks turn to months, months turn to years,
Loving a convict is shedding many, many tears,
time passes slowly and yet so fast
before you realize it, the time has passed
loving a convict is more than just dreams
for loving a convict is just what it means.
No! loving a convict is not much fun
but, it's well worth the price
when his time is done.

Johnny Aragon Jr.



LOVE IS...

May 14, 1978.



MOTHER'S

Happy
Mother's Day
We Love YOU
x o x o x

** I Love You Mom **

She had many things in store for me,
And the things I never had,
But inside I know I've crushed her dreams.
I am why her eyes look sad.
To love and make me happy through life,
I know was her only aim.
Although she doesn't say it now
I know I've put her to shame.
Her lovely child, her pride and joy,
All these things were true,
But I know I've broken my mother's heart
That's not what I meant to do.
She has a smile on her face when she comes to
visit, But in her eyes I see a tear.
She wants me free but she knows what I'll do,
And that's her greatest fear.
Her little boy, her baby son,
The man she thought I would be,
Those hopes are gone now too much time has
passed, But she'll always have faith in me.
We argue when I'm out and I treat her bad,
Sometimes I say I don't care.
She always gives, I always take,
Inside I know it's not fair.
I say I don't need you, don't hassle me, Mom,
And please get off my tail.
But guess who I call each time I go down
'Mom come see me....I'm in jail.'
Yes I've caused her pain most of my life
And expect her love in return.

I can't conceive how it hurts but when my
child is grown
That's the day I'll learn. But I love you,
Mom and I miss you so,
And though I may not say it out loud,
If I were granted but one wish
in my life, it would be
to make you proud.

submitted by
Johnny Ray Aragon Jr.



SPRING SENTIMENT

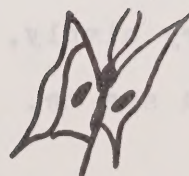
No more--those winter saddened skies;
I look, at last, with gladdened eyes
Into the sunlit blue beyond,
Bedappled with those silver clouds
Whose patterns change with every breeze
That stirs in that bright blue beyond.

No more--white rivers cramped with frost;
But foaming waters, gaily tossed
By Spring awakened riverboats,
And furrowed by the whiffs of breeze
Which whistle plaintive airs upon
The riggings of the riverboats.

No more--trees nude and solitaire;
Bepetalled coats of green they wear,
Enhanced by blossoms, all aflower
Whose wafted nectar bids the bees
Come sip and sing their symphony
With birds acooing in their bowers.

No more--the cold and cheerless nights;
The fog that hid the moon and stars,
The air, bereft of sweet perfumes,
The heart, alone, without its mate--
It's Spring! The world now lives again;
The heart now echoes Love's refrain.

Owen deVere ROWE



Heather Tisdale,
1232 Kensington Pk. Rd.,
Oakville, Ontario.
L6H 2G9

PLANS

It's all very well
my dear
to look through me,
transparent and glassy,
or can you really
not see me?
the stairs twist
and you climb them
today I saw you
the light refracted
off the window
the glass rays
shot across you
again I become air;
I let you go this time

Tomorrow
Rasputin's hypnotic eyes
work--you fall--
but no tricks are needed,
instead,
very simply,
you see me.

who would have imagined

your kind brown eyes

could kill?

Tomorrow

my dear

your poor head

lies on the flowers of my skirt

I will stop the blood;

you're prone in the hall,

and people walk around us;

I stop the tears

then you stand up again

and I avoid your gaze.

A.A.

Feb. 9/78

Dear Tightwire Staff,

Just a few lines to say that today I did receive your subscription to the Tightwire and yes please I am still very interested in the paper as I feel that there is some very good reading and I have just put your name on our mailing list for our magazine and I would only be to happy to hear from anyone who is interested in writing to our Group Koala Group of A.A. I shall try and write a small article for your magazine.

Hello my friends my name is Les and I am a a grateful alcoholic as when I came into prison in 1972 I found out that my life was unmanageable, but I didn't want to do anything about it and on top of the whole lot I didn't believe that I had a problem with alcohol and I was never going to admit that I even had a problem with alcohol. I just loved my drinking.

When I attended my first A.A. meeting, 13th May 1973 and after a few meetings I thought that I could have a problem differently I was not an alcoholic, but it was not long when I told myself that I would give A.A. and the nuts in A.A. a go and I made up my mind that A.A. could teach me to drink like any normal person and I carried out A.A. for nearly 18 months until I was pulled up and told to read Chp. Five of our Big Book "Half measures avail us nothing". Today I know fully that I must be willing to go all the way or none of the way, and today I can say without fear that I do my A.A. each day to the best of my ability and I have such a happy life even behind these four walls.

To any new member of our wonderful fellowship of A.A. please take notice as why go the hard way and may be all the way and get no where, but if you are honest with yourself you will find out that what I have written is very, very true and my life today I would not sell for all the money in China as I just love living. Six years ago I could hardly write or spell and had no trade and I can say that what I have today I can honestly thank A.A. as A.A. gave me something to live for and today I have a Boilers Attendants ticket and now I am going for a Baker's ticket and most of all I know that by picking up that first drink I shall lose all I have as I fully believe that my next drink I not find the doors to A.A. but to hell.

May your God grant you peace and happiness within yourselves as each day comes along. Yours in fellowship sharing and caring,

Leslie Brown

Adelaide,
South Australia

 Serenity *Pray*

God grant me the

*Serenity to accept the things
i cannot change ;*

Courage to change the things i can;

*and the Wisdom to know the
difference*



ENTERTAINMENT

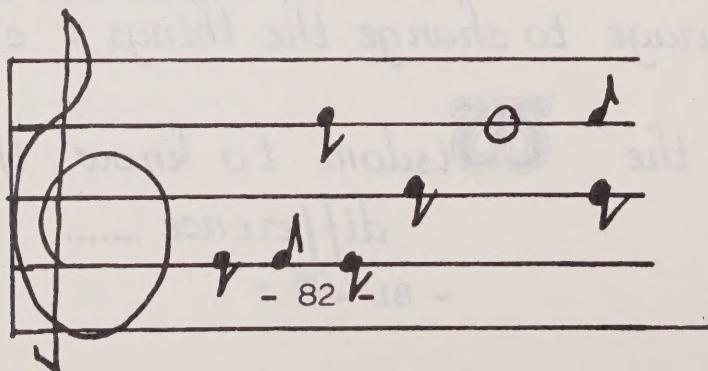
by Barb MacPhee

Well folks, here we are once again, but with a pretty short schedule on what's been happening at the P4W in the line of entertainment. I guess it's because of the lack of funds and too little interest, and because of this I think I will take my business elsewhere. But before I do that I will run off what did take place in the past couple of months.

March: The E. Fry Society gave a St. Patrick's dance for us; the magnificent Ric Fondell and company came and played a bit of Irish music. Students from Queen's University helped us along by boogying all night.

March 24th to 27th: Peter Cottontail paid us a visit, which left us with two things; one was a nice chocolate bunny, the other, a few extra pounds that none of us needed. We also had three dynamite flicks which were so good I forget the names of them. And to finish off the long weekend we had a B.I.N.G.O. where everyone won a prize except me!

April 28th: We are having a school band come in and play for us. I haven't heard anything through the



grapevine, so I don't know what they're like.

I guess that rounds it up; I would like to thank all who came in to the P4W to give us a good time. And I want to say whoever is taking care of scheduling the entertainment: "Please let more things happen as I love to work."





SPORTS SPORTS AND MORE SPORTS....

We've got the spring basketball league underway; Debbie on extended leave, D.V. on vacation, D.P. bent fingers but still the Angel's with 7 stalwarts hit the court Tuesdays and Sundays to take on the league competition. So far we've dropped two close ones to the Jr. Globes in two hard fought, and I do mean hard fought battles. We slipped by the Gananoque team and are still to meet the cream of the crop from Cupelos (?) sports. In the first three games the team has been led by its steady performers, with Barb MacPhee running the ball, Marlene Andres hooping them from everywhere. The Angels are always a contender. In the second game against the Globes Sandy Nord a new member of the team collected 16 points to lead the Angels and give us an inside view on what's to come.

With volleyball the league is still threatening to begin, but in the mean time the Angels A and B have been kept busy playing the likes of the CKWS DJ's and friends, Boswell's Boys, who the A team dropped 3-1 last game and the girls team from the Y who we've had good close games with. Come the end of April, all going as planned, we should be into the A/B volleyball leagues, and still keeping up our Wednesday evening volleyball for all of ya'll.

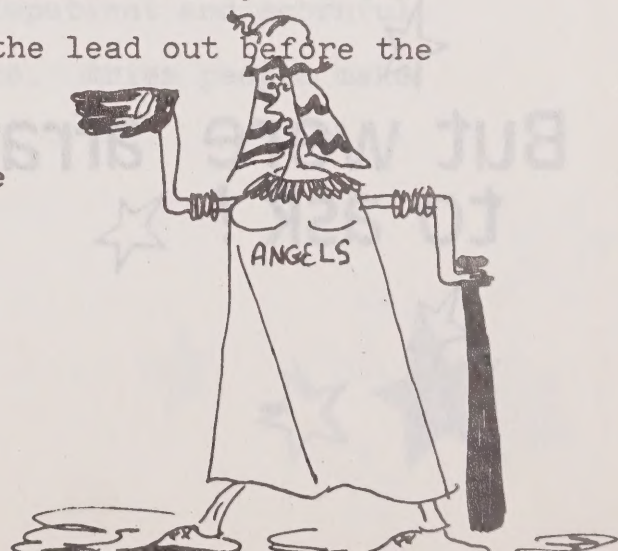
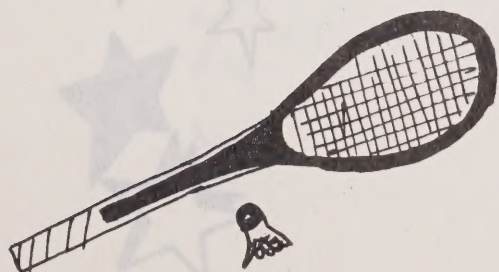
With the weather improvements, we can look forward to an early spring training for the BASEBALL SEASON, this year promising more spills and chills and 3 more new teams in our league. This year the Angels will be defending their championship to a city league of at least 11 teams. Season starts May 24 week and it'll be baseball right through until September.

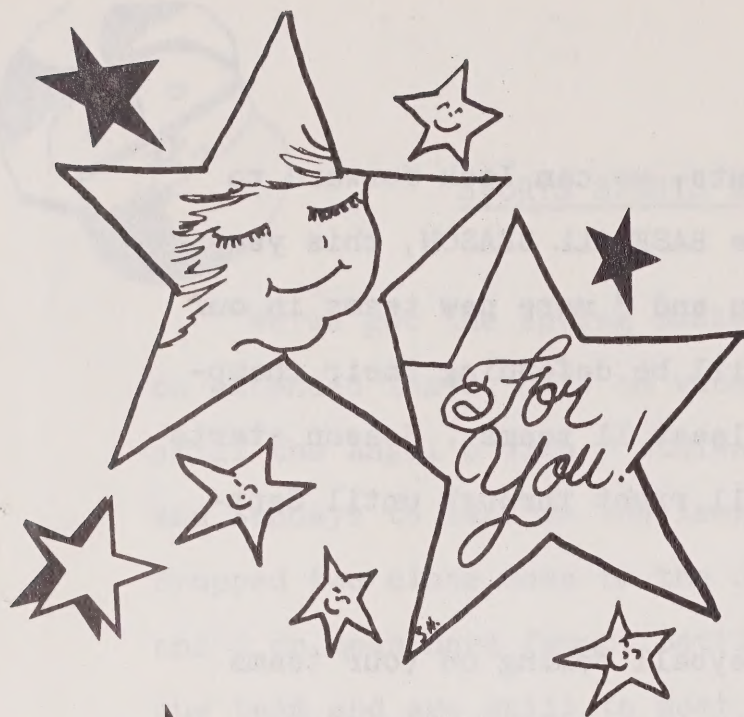
So that's basketball, volleyball coming on (our teams are both well practised, as we've been playing now since January), and baseball in the wings.

So? What else is new; perhaps a new and exciting recreation officer, quite possibly, the swimming program along with some new twists on scheduling begins May 1st, at the luxurious and exotic Vimy pool, and who knows the summer may even bring a few long walks and some bowling; keep the fingers crossed.

Every evening there is the sound of tightening flesh in the gymnasium from 6:00 until 6:30 as Helen et. company put themselves through the paces for spring tuneup and jogging class where Donna, Ann and Sharon go through the motions of pushing into the miles and getting themselves ready for the summer sun. Well that's spring, get the lead out before the summer heat hits.

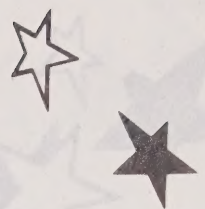
Ian Lyle





**Everything
"YOU"
Wanted To Know
About
ASTROLOGY
??**

**But were afraid
to ask !**



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You have an inventive mind and are inclined to be progressive. You lie a great deal. On the other hand you are inclined to be careless and impractical, causing you to make the same mistakes over and over again. People think you are stupid.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

You have a vivid imagination and often think you are being followed. You have no influence over your associates. People bump into you alot. You lack confidence and are generally a coward. Pisces people do terrible things to small animals.

Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

You are the pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. You are quick tempered, impatient and scornful of advice. You are not very nice. Aries people make love in the dark.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

You are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell. Most people think you are stubborn and bullheaded. You often lose your way home.

Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You are a quick and intelligent thinker. People like you because you are bisexual. However, you are inclined to expect too much for too little. This means you are cheap. Geminis are known for committing incest.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

You are sympathetic and understanding to other people's problems. They think you are a sucker. You are always putting things off. That's why you'll never make anything of yourself. Most welfare recipients are Cancer people.





Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

You consider yourself a born leader. Other think you are pushy. Most Leo people are bullies. You are vain and dislike honest criticism. Your arrogance is disgusting. Leo people are often bed wetters.

Virgo

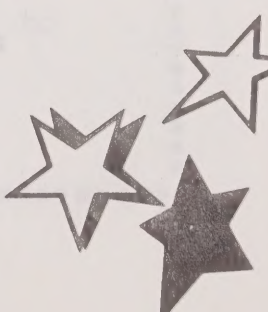
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You are the logical type and hate disorder. This nitpicking is sickening to your friends. You are cold and unemotional and sometimes fall asleep while making love. Virgos make good bus drivers.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. If you are a man, you are most likely queer. Chances for employment and monetary gains are excellent. You forget people's names and faces. Most Libra women have hairy legs.





Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted.

You will achieve the pinnacle of success because of your total lack of ethics. Most murderers are Scorpio people. You love Chinese food.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on luck since you lack talent. The majority of Sagittarians are drunks and braggarts. People laugh at you alot. Take the first offer that comes along.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. You don't do much of anything. There has never been a Capricorn of any importance. Capricorns should avoid standing still for too long as they take root and become trees.



DAILY CALENDAR THOUGHTS

Calendar Thoughts have been taken from Inside Out a spiritual manual for prison life. Inside Out comes from the Prison-Ashram Project of the Hanuman Foundation.

They have put together a weekly calendar of affirmation practices, and quotes from which you can draw. Take one thought each day, memorize it and work with it. Put it to use, see the truth in it, find situations around you in which it could be used and repeat them over and over.

This calendar will help you associate only with positive thoughts.

The beginning of each calendar page starts off with affirmations. Affirmations are somewhat like mantras. They are designed to help your mind gain strength determination and faith in its struggles with the ego in overcoming negativity and endless thoughts.

If something negative comes up during your day, pull out an affirmation and concentrate on it until it pushes out the negativity. These affirmations will help to

A decorative graphic featuring three stylized flowers of varying sizes and a horizontal dotted line. The flowers are simple line drawings with five petals each. The dotted line runs horizontally across the middle of the graphic, with one flower positioned above it and two below it.

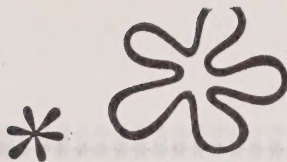
I establish myself today in:

The Power of God to guide me,
The Might of God to uphold me.
The Wisdom of God to teach me.
The Eye of God to watch over me.
The Ear of God to hear me
The Word of God to speak for me.
The Hand of God to protect me.
The Way of God to lie before me.
The Shield of God to shelter me.
The Host of God to defend me.
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ at my right hand, Christ at my left.
Christ in breadth, in length, in height.
Christ in the heart of everyman who speaks to me
Christ in the eye of every man who sees me.
Christ in the ear of every man who hears me.

Sunday:

I am surrounded, enfolded, upheld, by life, light and power.

I am the illuminated child of God, filled with the spirit of Divine Love and Wisdom, by which I am guided in all my ways, and led into that which is for my highest good.



But a real smile comes from the heart. You've seen wry smiles, embarrassed smiles, mean smiles, lying smiles - and some where inside you knew that it was a mask. But a real smile is like a cold. One heart-centered smile can be given to another and he will pass it along without even knowing an epidemic has just been started!

God expects but one thing of you, and that is that you should come out of yourself in so far as you are a created being and let God be God in you.

- Eckhardt

The worst punishment is to throw someone out of your heart.

- Maharaji

A dog is not considered a good dog because he is a good barker. A man is not considered a good man because he is a good talker.

Sunday:

A mighty God-power wells up in my being, purifying, vitalizing, energizing, rebuilding, renewing, reconstructing, healing instantly and forever. I will be still and know the truth of God.

Extremely lucky are they who meet a real Saint. Some may tell the past, present and future; some may stop the sun from setting; some may easily walk over a sea; but difficult, difficult indeed, it is to meet a real Saint.

- Eknath

Keep God in your heart like you keep money in a safe.

- Maharaji

Truth lies within ourselves; it takes no rise from outward things, what'er you may believe. There is an inmost centre in us all, where truth abides in fullness, and to know rather consists in opening out a way whence the imprisoned splendor may escape than in effect-

Wednesday:

I am the open channel through which the healing currents of life are now flowing. God is my life, God is my health, God is my supply, in God is my trust. All things unfold evenly, easily, smoothly, in perfect sequence, in divine Law and Order.

You have to understand the mother to realize God.

- Maharaji

The past is already past,
The future is not yet here,
The present never abides;
Things are constantly changing,
With nothing on which to depend;
So many names and words confusingly self-created -
What is the use of wasting your life thus idly all day?

- Ryokwan

Your prison environment is what you create. It is like an astronaut's room in a space capsule. It is a capsule of existence suspended in the moment. How you live in it and what vibrations you put into it will determine what you will get out of it. - Ram Dass

Thursday:

A mighty God power goes before me, making easy and instant and perfect my way. I am God's perfect child. I am free - I am free - I am free.

Big mind is something to express, not something to figure out. Big mind is something you have, not something to seek for. - Suzuki Roshi

He who knows does not speak; He who speaks does not know. - Lao Tze

If you remember God, then he takes care of everything.

- Maharaji

Taking the name of God, dive Deep, O mind, into the heart's fathomless depths, where many precious gems (of love) lie hid. Never believe that the bed of the ocean is bare, if in the first few dives, you fail. With firm resolve and self control dive deep and make your way into God's realm - Ramakrishna

Friday:

Love overcomes all things. Love never fails. Love is fulfilling of the law. Perfect Love casts out fear.

All is done instantly, because God is the only power and the only cause.

A man wanted a smoke. He went to a neighbour's house to light his charcoal. It was the dead of night and the house-hold was asleep. After he had knocked a great deal, someone came down to open the door. At the sight of the man, he asked, "Hello! what's the matter?" The man replied, "Can't you guess? You know how fond I am of smoking, I have come here to light my charcoal." The neighbour said, "Ha! Ha! You are a fine man indeed! You took the trouble to come and do all this knocking at the door! Why, you have a lighted lantern in your hand!" - Sri Ramakrishna

Everyone has the right to be fed - Maharaji

Each morning, sit quietly for a few minutes and ask God to give you a word for the day. Whatever word comes, peace - love - determination, use the word as a guide during the day. Try to remember it through all your activities, and apply it to whatever trials and tests present themselves to you.

Saturday:

I am the child of God, expressing Divine Harmony in all ways, at all times. God is the only power.

Most people think that a smile starts with the mouth.

ing entry for light supposed to be without.
- Robert Browning

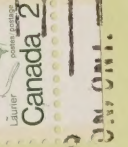
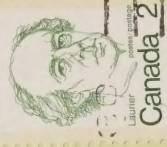
A God defined is a God confined - Ram Firtha



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